精霊の守り人

SEIREI NO MORIBITO

藤原カムイ
原作：上橋菜穂子

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Seirei no Moribito

by Uehashi Nahoko, Futatsugi Saki, & Fujiwara Kamui

Chapter 6

The End

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GC ガンガンコミックス

藤原カムイ

早いもので、もう2巻です。原作だと、中盤に当たります。
まずアニメありきということでスタートしているので、
極力アニメの設定を生かしつつの作業となっています。
当然ながら、全部を使う事は、分量的に不可能なので、
結果良いとこ取りになってしまっています。
アニメは、緻密で素晴らしい世界観を提示していて好きなのですが、
僕自身のイメージした風景とは、若干異なります。
初期設定から僕自身のオリジナル設定でやってみたかった作品なので、
せめてもと、漫画のキャラは多少オリジナルを加えつつ、
原作の挿絵のイメージに引き戻したりしてます。
然し乍ら作品とは、制約されることで昇華する例もありますので、
この作品もそのように完成されていけば本望なのです。

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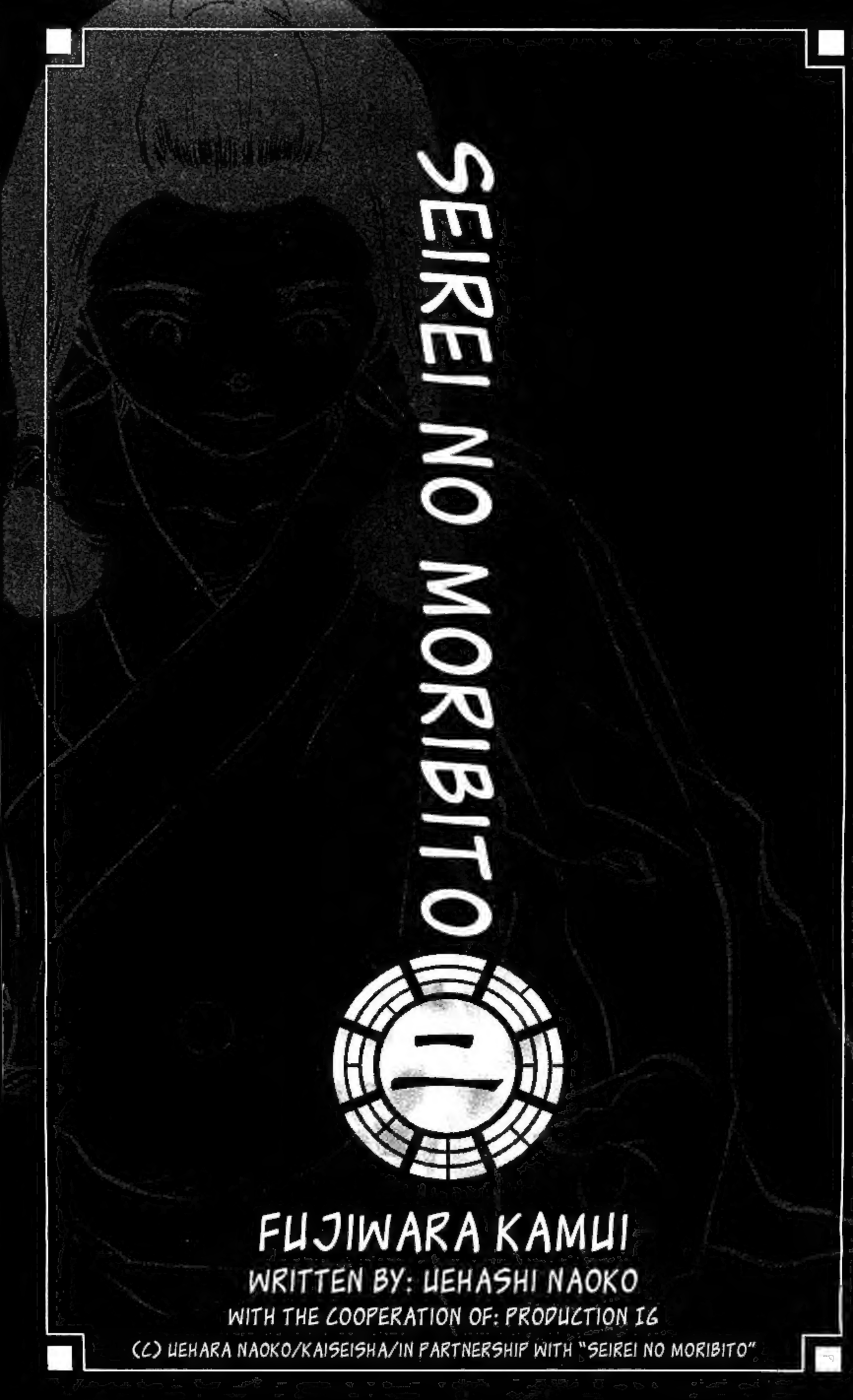
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FUJIWARA KAMUI
WRITTEN BY: UEHASHI NAOKO
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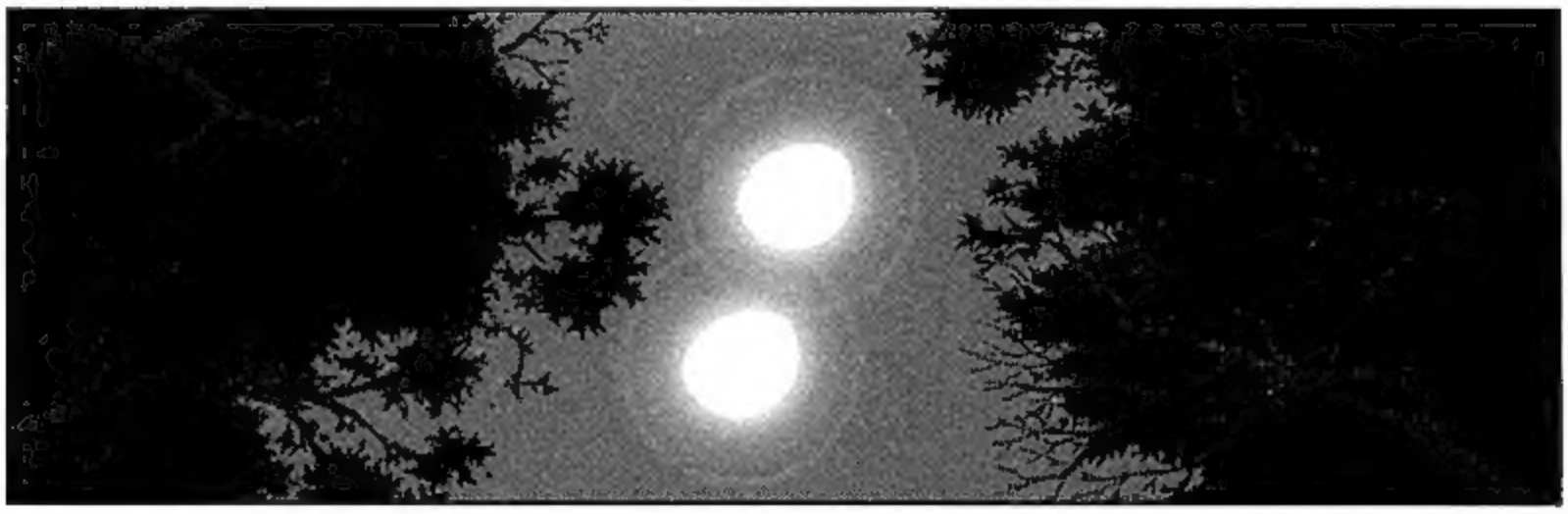
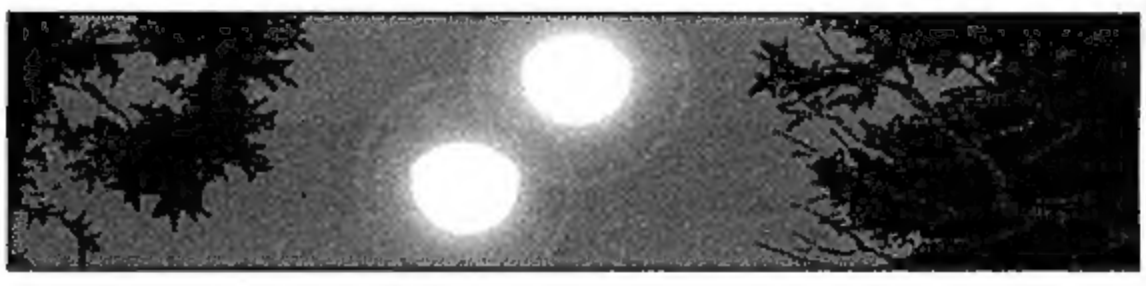


CHAPTER 6 THE WATER GUARDIAN



FLY...
FLY...

NAJI...

JIGURO...

TANDA...

ARE YOU AWAKE?

TANDA...

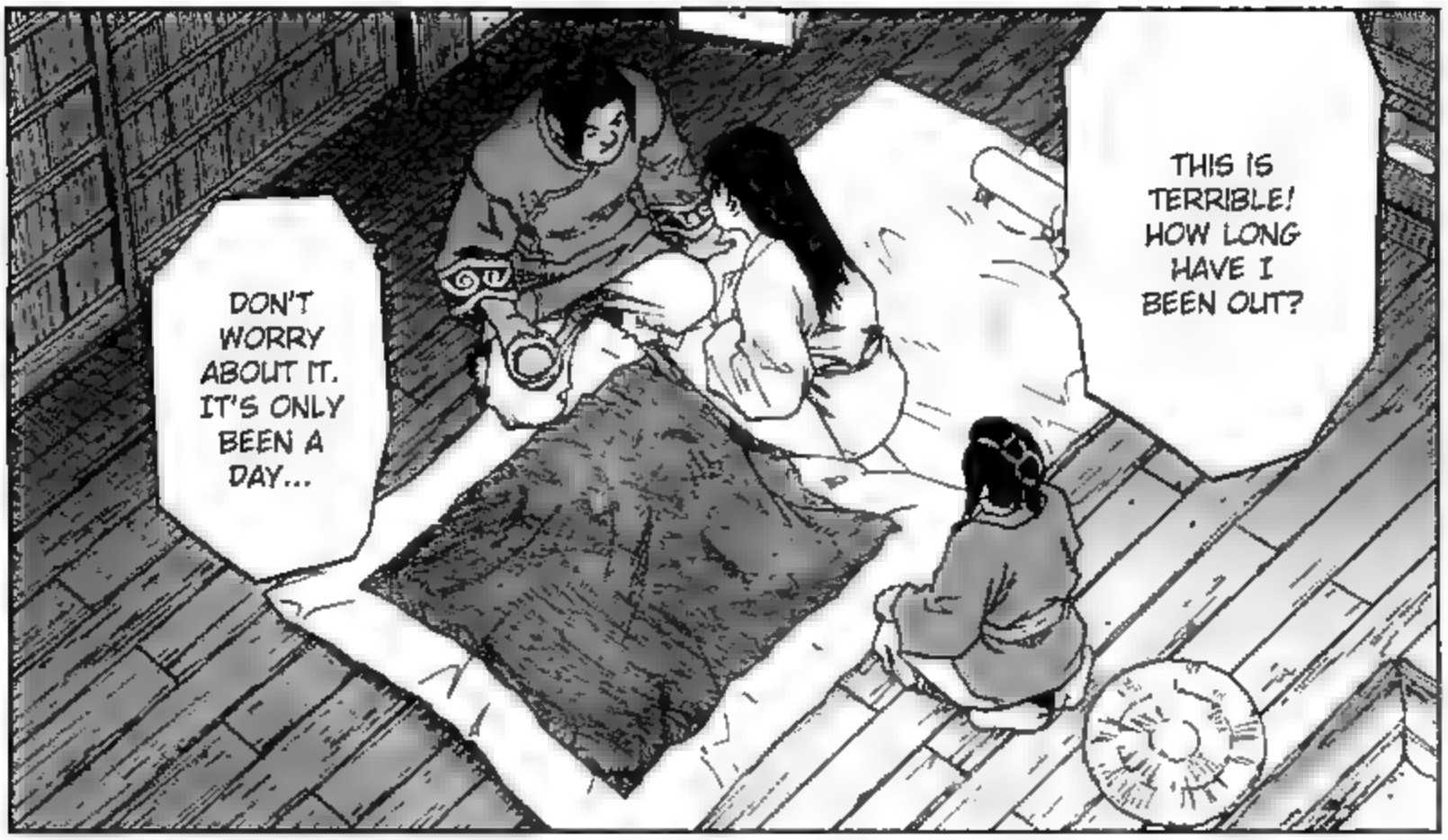
YOU WERE BADLY INJURED... WHICH IS WHY YOUR MEMORIES ARE GETTING MIXED UP...
.....
DID I LOSE TO JIGURO AGAIN?
.....
JIGURO HASN'T BEEN WITH US FOR A VERY LONG TIME. DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

NOW DRINK SOME WATER...

THAT'S RIGHT... JIGURO IS DEAD...

AH...

...CHA... GUM?


DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. IT'S ONLY BEEN A DAY...
THIS IS TERRIBLE! HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN OUT?

THIS KID IS PRETTY TOUGH AND RESOURCEFUL! I WAS SO SURPRISED WHEN HE STUMBLED BY THE HUT LAST NIGHT, FULL OF SCRATCHES...
IT'S GOING TO BE FINE. HE TOLD ME WHAT HAPPENED.

I SEE. THANK YOU...
HE TOLD ME WHAT HAPPENED FROM THE BEGINNING, ABOUT YOU BEING PURSUED. I CLEANED UP ALL THE BLOOD TRAILS TO MAKE SURE THEY CAN'T FOLLOW YOU HERE.

BAL-SA...

I'M JUST GLAD YOU ARE SAFE.

!

YOU DID WELL, CHAGUM. YOU'VE BEEN A GREAT HELP...

NOW THAT I KNOW WE'RE OKAY... I'M GETTING SLEEPY.

THAT'S TRUE...

THE PERSON WHO SHOULD BE THE PRO-TECTOR WAS THE ONE BEING PROTECTED.

THEN I'M GOING TO PREPARE DINNER. I'LL WAKE YOU UP WHEN IT'S READY.

UFF

CHAGUM... SORRY FOR HEAPING THIS ON YOU, BUT COULD YOU LOOK AFTER BALSA WHILE I GO FETCH SOME WATER?

I USED IT ALL FOR THE MEDICAL TREATMENT.

WE'RE OUT OF WATER...

DRAT...

WELL ...

NOTHING IN PARTICULAR... JUST WATCH OVER HER.

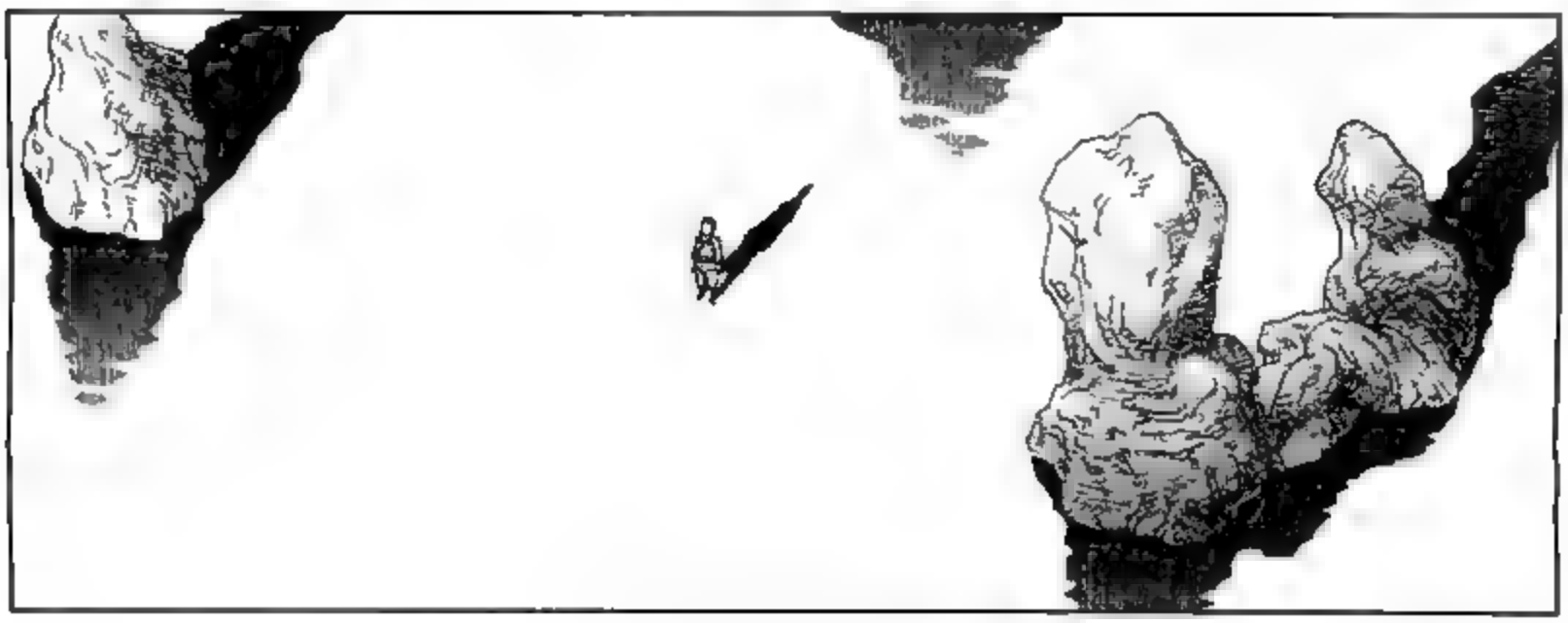
WHAT SHOULD I DO?

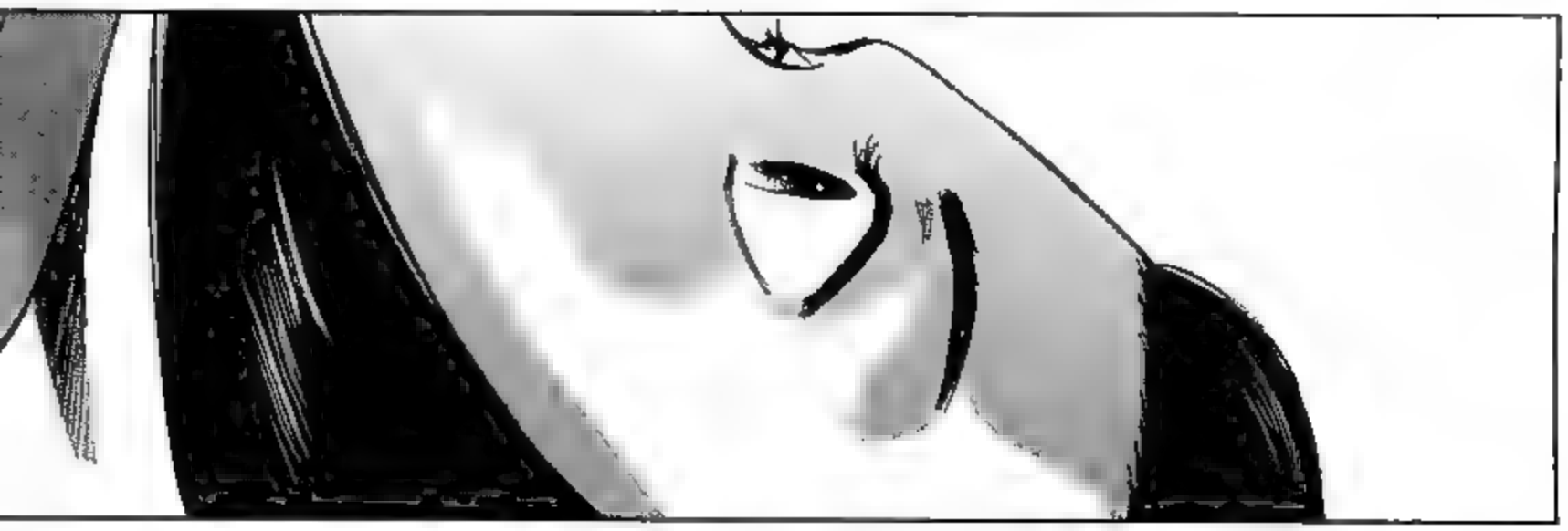
OKAY.

IF SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE'S IN PAIN, JUST SOAK THE TOWEL IN THE BUCKET AND PUT IT ON HER FOREHEAD.

I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU, THEN.

SIGH





!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, CHAGUM?

HEY... CHAGUM...

UWAAAH!!

HEY!!
CHAGUM!!
WAKE UP!!

WHA...
WHAT IS
THIS...

!

IS THIS
NAYUG?!

IT CAN'T BE...
NAYUG!?!

NO!!
IF HE DOESN'T SNAP OUT OF IT, HE'S GOING TO GET PULLED IN!

WHOOSH

YOU'RE BACK... THANK GOODNESS.

TANDA... SAN.

WHAT...? YOU CAN'T REMEMBER?

WHY AM I HERE?

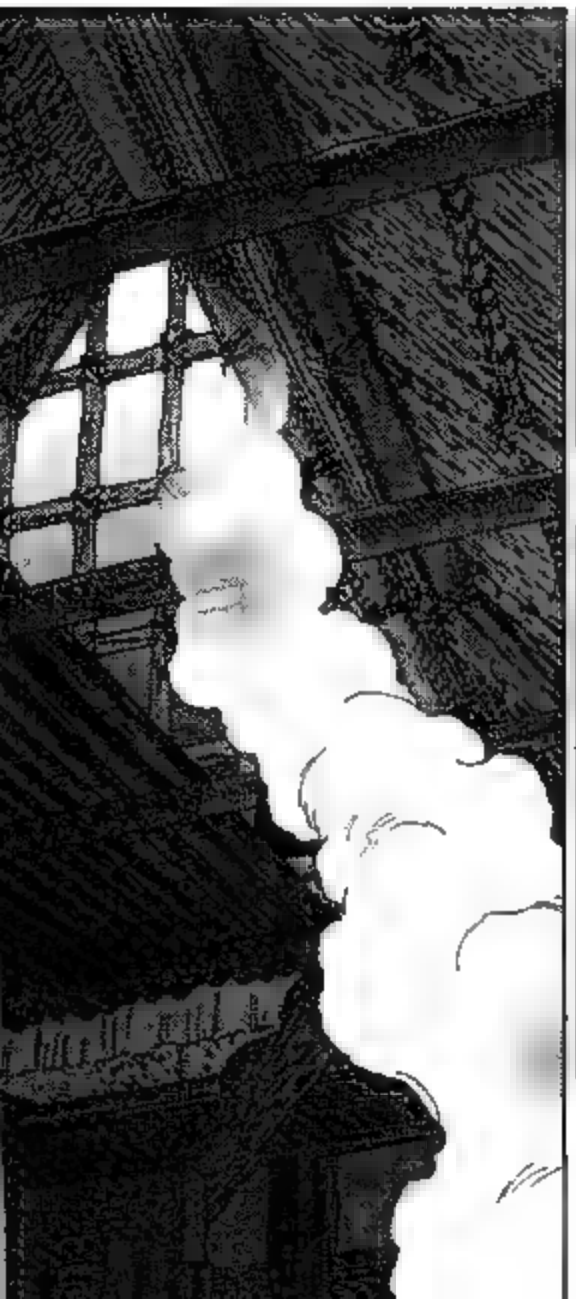
THIS IS MORE TROUBLING THAN I THOUGHT...

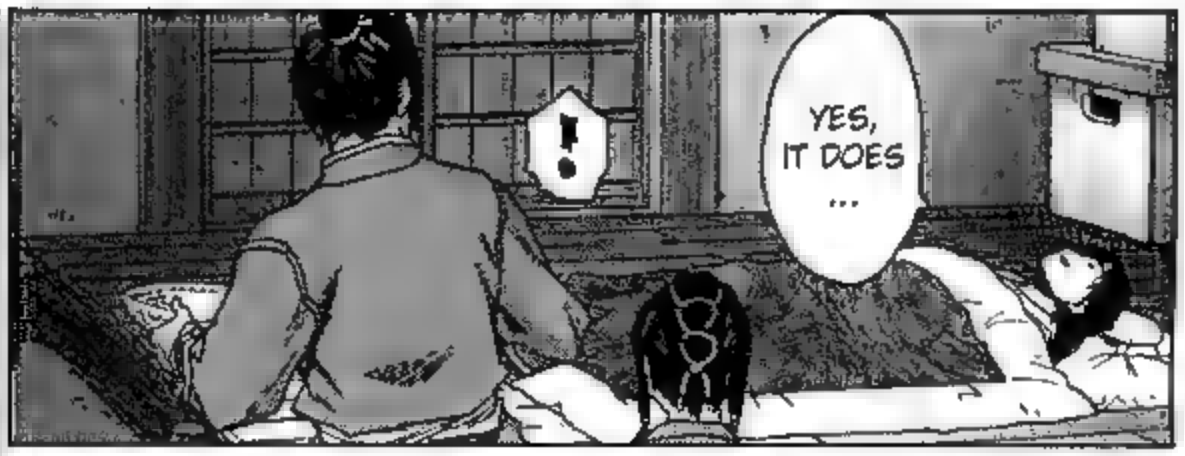
BALSA... YOU GOT YOURSELF MIXED UP IN ANOTHER INCONCEIVABLE SITUATION.

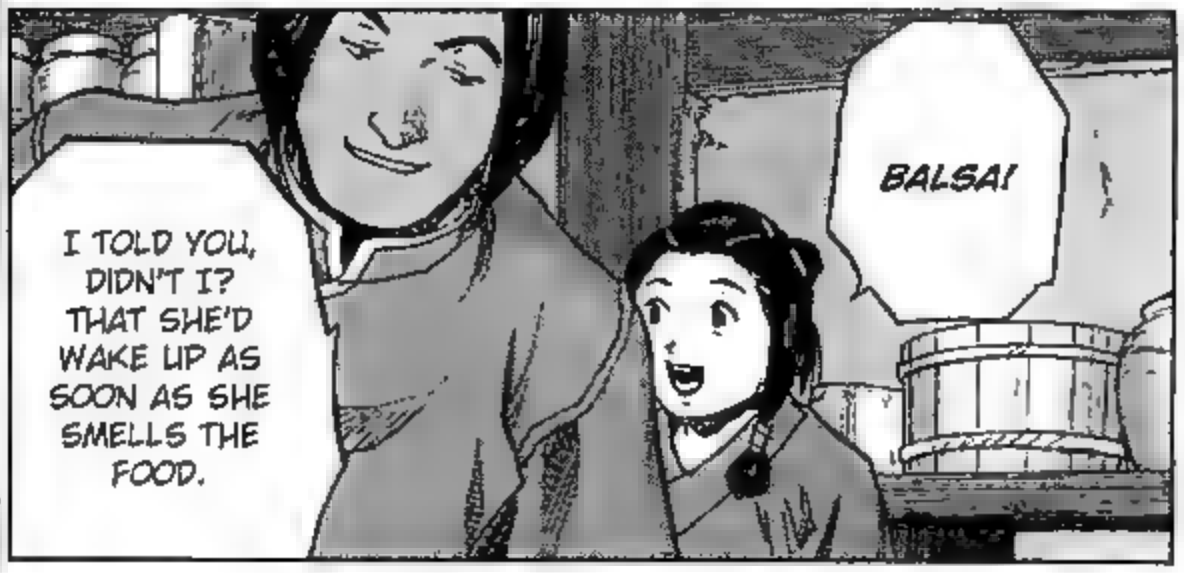
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. GO BACK INSIDE...

IT BECOMES BITTER WHEN OVERCOOKED, SO THE TRICK IS TO WEAKEN THE FIRE AND PUT THESE IN DIRECTLY...
IT'S A KIND OF MUSHROOM CALLED KANKUI. IT ADDS FLAVOR TO THE DISH...
WHAT IS THAT?

IT SMELLS GOOD.




!
YES, IT DOES ...


I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I? THAT SHE'D WAKE UP AS SOON AS SHE SMELLS THE FOOD.
BALSA!

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE OUR FOOD IS FRESHLY MADE?

IT'S STRANGE... IT SEEMS LIKE COMMONER FOOD IS MUCH MORE DELICIOUS THAN THE FOOD IN THE PALACE...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LIVE IN A PALACE... BUT I WOULD ASSUME FOOD WOULD ALWAYS HAVE TO BE CHECKED FOR POISON AND SUCH BEFORE IT GETS SERVED, SO IT WOULD GET COLD.

THAT'S RIGHT! I REALLY HAVEN'T TASTED FRESHLY-MADE FOOD BEFORE!

BALSA... IT'S THE NYUNGA RO IM!
WAIT... I THINK I GET IT NOW...

THE THING LIVING INSIDE HIM... IT'S THE NYUNGA RO IM. THE YAKU TERM FOR THE WATER GUARDIAN.
WHAT...?

I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT IT EITHER... BUT YOU'VE HEARD OF IT, HAVEN'T YOU? THE LEGEND OF HOW THE WATER SPIRIT WAS VANQUISHED...

WATER GUARDIAN... SOMETHING LIKE THE RIVER'S SPIRIT?

COULD IT BE...? THE WATER SPIRIT?
YES... BY EMPEROR TORGAL...

IT'S VERY LIKELY.

THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF YAKU— CAN SEE A WHOLE DIFFERENT WORLD THAT NO ONE ELSE CAN SEE. THE LAND OF NAYUG.

THE PEOPLE OF THE NEW YOGO EMPIRE DIDN'T BELIEVE IT.

THMP

SAGU AND NAYUG OCCUPY THE SAME PLACE... HERE.

I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS ABOUT IT, BUT THERE IS ONE THING I DO KNOW...

THE IMPORTANT PART OF THIS IS THAT SAGU AND NAYUG DEPEND ON EACH OTHER.

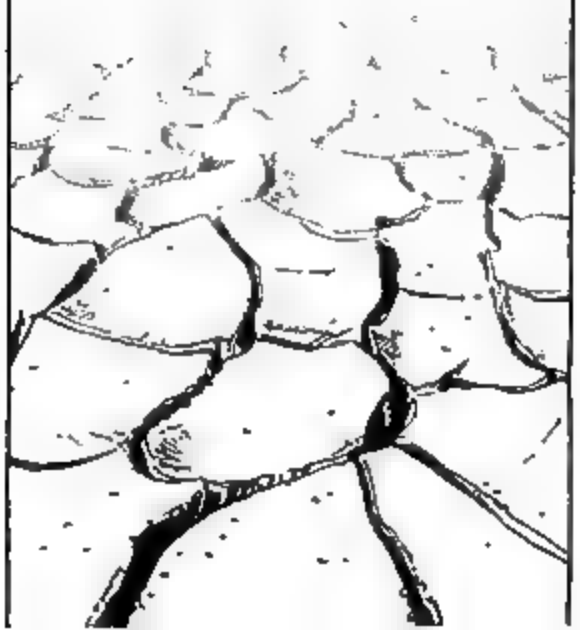
100 YEARS AGO, THIS CREATURE WAS BORN FROM AN EGG. IN THE YEARS AFTER THE EGG APPEARED, THERE CAME A MASSIVE DROUGHT.

THERE IS A CREATURE FROM NAYUG THAT HAS THE POWER TO AFFECT THE WEATHER OF BOTH SAGU AND NAYUG.

AND AS FOR WHY THE CREATURE HAS TO BE BORN IN SAGU...

IT IS BECAUSE IT IS ALSO THE NYUNGA RO IM. THE WATER GUARDIAN.

IT IS BELIEVED THAT IF THE EGG DOES NOT SAFELY HATCH DURING THE FULL MOON IN THE SUMMER SOLSTICE, THE DROUGHT WILL GO ON UNTIL IT CAUSES A MASSIVE CRISIS.



THEN WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? THAT CHAGUM WILL BIRTH THIS NYUNGA RO IM?

I'M SORRY FOR RUINING YOUR DINNER. I KNOW IT CAN'T HAVE BEEN EASY TO HEAR...

!

THE HUMAN WHO HOUSES THE EGG OF THE NYUNGA RO IM IS CALLED THE NYUNGA RO CHAGA*, AND HE IS CONSIDERED VERY IMPORTANT TO THE YAKU PEOPLE, SOMEONE WHO THEY WILL PROTECT.

THE YAKU REALLY VALUE THE NYUNGA RO IM.

BUT, YOU KNOW ...

*T/L Note: The Nyunga Ro Chaga is the Yaku term "Seirei no Moribito" (Guardian of the Spirit).

WHAT I CAN REMEMBER, ACCORDING TO THE LEGEND, IS THAT THE CHILD THAT HOSTED THE WATER SPIRIT DIED. THEN, THE YAKU ELDERS MOURNED AND ASKED THE HOLY SAGE TO EXTERMINATE IT.

BUT TANDA, ISN'T THAT DIFFERENT FROM THE LEGEND OF EMPEROR TORGAL DEFEATING THE WATER SPIRIT?

...ARE YOU SAYING EMPEROR TORGAL LIED?!

!

YES, THAT IS WHAT THE LEGEND SAYS... PEOPLE IN HIGH PLACES TEND TO OVERSELL THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS. IN THE SAME WAY THAT A SHOGUN TAKES CREDIT FOR WINNING A WAR THAT THE COMMON SOLDIERS WORKED TIRELESSLY FOR.

AHH... CLEVER KID.

WOW... YOU WERE ABLE TO GLEAN THAT MUCH FROM THE LITTLE I'VE TOLD YOU...

OBVIOUSLY, THERE ARE PARTS OF EMPEROR TORGAL'S LEGEND THAT ARE TRUE.

BUT I KNOW THAT THERE ARE ALSO PARTS THAT ARE COMPLETE FABRICATIONS.

CHAGUM... I DON'T WANT TO LIE TO YOU, AND YOU ARE NEARLY AN ADULT, SO I'LL BE STRAIGHT WITH YOU...

.....

SO WHY DO YOU BELIEVE THE STORY OF THE YAKU, BUT NOT OF THE EMPEROR?

!

I KNOW THAT HE HAS A DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF THESE THINGS... THAT HE IS VERY CAREFUL IN GIV-ING OUT THE RIGHT INFORMATION.

TWO REASONS. FIRST IS, I KNOW TANDA WELL.

SECOND IS, BETWEEN LEGENDS TOLD BY THE POWERFUL AND THE WEAK, I KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE TO LEAN TOWARDS THE LEGENDS TOLD BY THOSE WHO ARE WEAK.

BECAUSE IT IS A SOURCE OF THEIR PRIDE AS A PEOPLE...

I DISAGREE, BALSA. YOU MAY BE RIGHT, BUT I THINK THAT THE PERSECUTED ALSO HAVE A TENDENCY TO OVERSELL THEIR LEGENDS...

EMPEROR TORGAL SPREAD THE STORY EVEN BEFORE HE SET FOOT IN THIS LAND...

...BECAUSE IT WAS THE KIND OF LEGEND THAT COULD GET THE PEOPLE OF THE NEW YOGO EMPIRE TO YOUR SIDE.

IT'S JUST THAT... THIS PARTICULAR LEGEND IS NOT ONE OF THOSE.

AND ONE MORE THING...

.....

WHEN I WAS YOUNG, MY YAKU GRANDMOTHER TOLD ME A FRIGHTENING STORY THAT HER OWN GRANDFATHER TOLD HER. AS THE STORY GOES...

YOU CAN PROBABLY TELL FROM MY COM-PLEXION... BUT I AM A DESCENDANT OF THE YAKU.

IT HAPPENED 200 YEARS AGO, 100 YEARS AFTER YOUR ANCESTOR, EMPEROR TORGAL, ELIMINATED THE WATER SPIRIT.

THE EGG APPEARED INSIDE THE SON OF MY GRANDFATHER'S FRIEND.

WHY DID HE DIE?

MY GRANDFATHER'S FRIEND WAS YAKU, AND HIS WIFE WAS FROM YOGO, SO THEIR CHILD WAS HALF-BLOOD. THEY BROUGHT THEIR SON TO THE FOREST AND PROTECTED HIM FIERCELY. EVEN SO... THE CHILD DIED.

BUT SHE BELIEVES IT WAS BECAUSE THE EGG WAS CONSUMED BY LA LUNGA— THE EGG EATER.
WELL, MY GRAND-MOTHER'S MEMORY IS SKETCHY...

I'M NOT EXACTLY SURE WHAT IT IS. IN THE YOGO LEGEND, IT COULD BE SOME UNDERLING OF THE EMPEROR THAT THEY HID TO PRESERVE THE LEGEND, OR IT COULD BE SOMETHING ELSE ENTIRELY...

LA LUNGA ...?!

IF WE DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS, WE CAN'T SUBDUE IT.
SO IT COULD BE A HUMAN, BUT IT COULD BE ANYTHING.

!
WELL, TOROGAI BELIEVES THAT THE LA LUNGA IS A CREATURE FROM NAYUG.

ISN'T TOROGAI THE PERSON THAT MY MOTHER SENT A MESSAGE TO...?

TOROGAI IS THE BEST SHAMAN ALIVE. SHE IS A VERY WISE WOMAN. SHE'S ALSO TANDA'S MENTOR...
YES.

BECAUSE SHE ALSO HAS YAKU BLOOD.

!

!
I HEARD THAT THE YAKU PEOPLE CAN'T READ... WHY WOULD YOU HAVE A MENTOR THAT CAN'T READ?

THINK ABOUT IT. THEY HAVE LIVED IN THIS LAND THE LONGEST... THEY KNOW THE WORLD MORE THAN ANYONE, JUST AS YOU KNOW YOUR OWN HOUSE MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE DOES.

THE YAKU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO READ, BUT THEY KNOW THE WORLD WELL.

THERE IS NO WAY TO CONTACT HER.

YES, BUT MY MENTOR GOES WHERE-EVER SHE LIKES...

TOROGAI REALLY IS OUR ONLY HOPE...

THE YAKU THESE DAYS HAVE MIXED BLOOD WITH THE YOGO, THE KANBAL... EVERYONE. THEY'RE NO DIFFERENT THAN ANYONE ELSE THESE DAYS. I'M NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT OUR CHANCES...

IS THERE ANOTHER YAKU WHO KNOWS MORE ABOUT THE NYUNGA RO IM?

THERE HAS TO BE A DESCENDANT! LET'S START INVESTIGATING TOMORROW!

THAT'S RIGHT!

THEN OUR ONLY CHANCE WOULD BE TO LOOK FOR A DESCENDANT OF YOUR GRAND-FATHER'S FRIEND. WHAT DO YOU THINK?

BUT I REALLY BELIEVE THAT THERE IS A WAY TO SAVE YOU.

I KNOW IT'S SCARY...

PAT

.....

AND I'M NOT JUST SAYING THAT TO EASE YOUR MIND.

I AM SURE THERE WERE PEOPLE THAT HAVE BEEN SAVED, WE JUST HAVEN'T HEARD OF IT YET.

IF THE NYUNGA RO IM IS BORN FROM AN EGG, THAT MEANS IT WOULD HAVE DESCENDANTS. OTHERWISE, IF IT WERE JUST DESTROYED WITH YOU AND NEVER BORN, THE WORLD WOULD HAVE DEVOLVED TO RUIN.

THERE IS NO REASON WHY THE YAKU WOULD SO FERVENTLY PROTECT THE CHILD WHO HOSTS THE NYUNGA RO IM IF HE WAS JUST GOING TO DIE AT THE END.

AND ALSO...

AND I CAN'T TELL HIM THAT POSSIBILITY. CHAGUM IS ALREADY SCARED AS IT IS...

BUT THEY MAY HAVE ALSO SEEN THE CHILD AS A SACRIFICE AND LET HIM DIE.

IF THE HOST DIES, THE EGG IS NO LONGER PROTECTED.

THAT'S WHAT TOROGAI SAID IN THE MESSAGE SHE SENT TO MY MOTHER.

THAT'S RIGHT! SHE DID SAY THAT.
WAIT, I FORGOT ABOUT THAT...
RIGHT ...
TANDA!!
WE HAVE TO FIND TOROGAI!!

Seirei no Moribito

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Chapter 7

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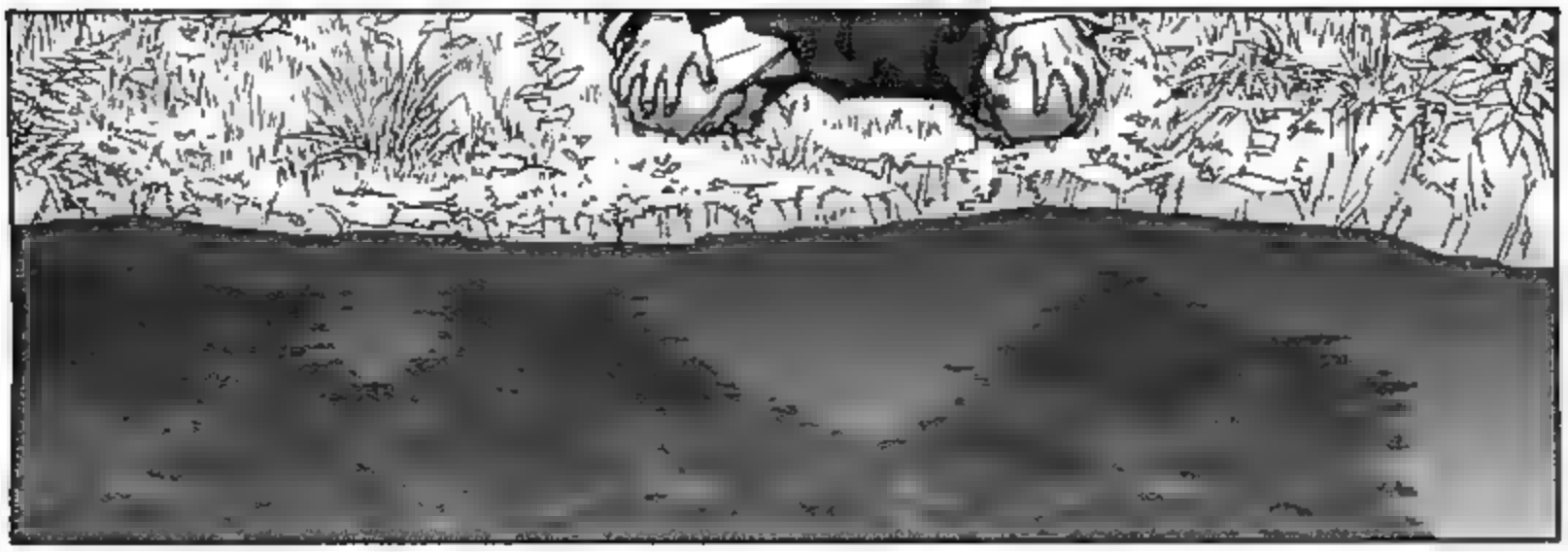
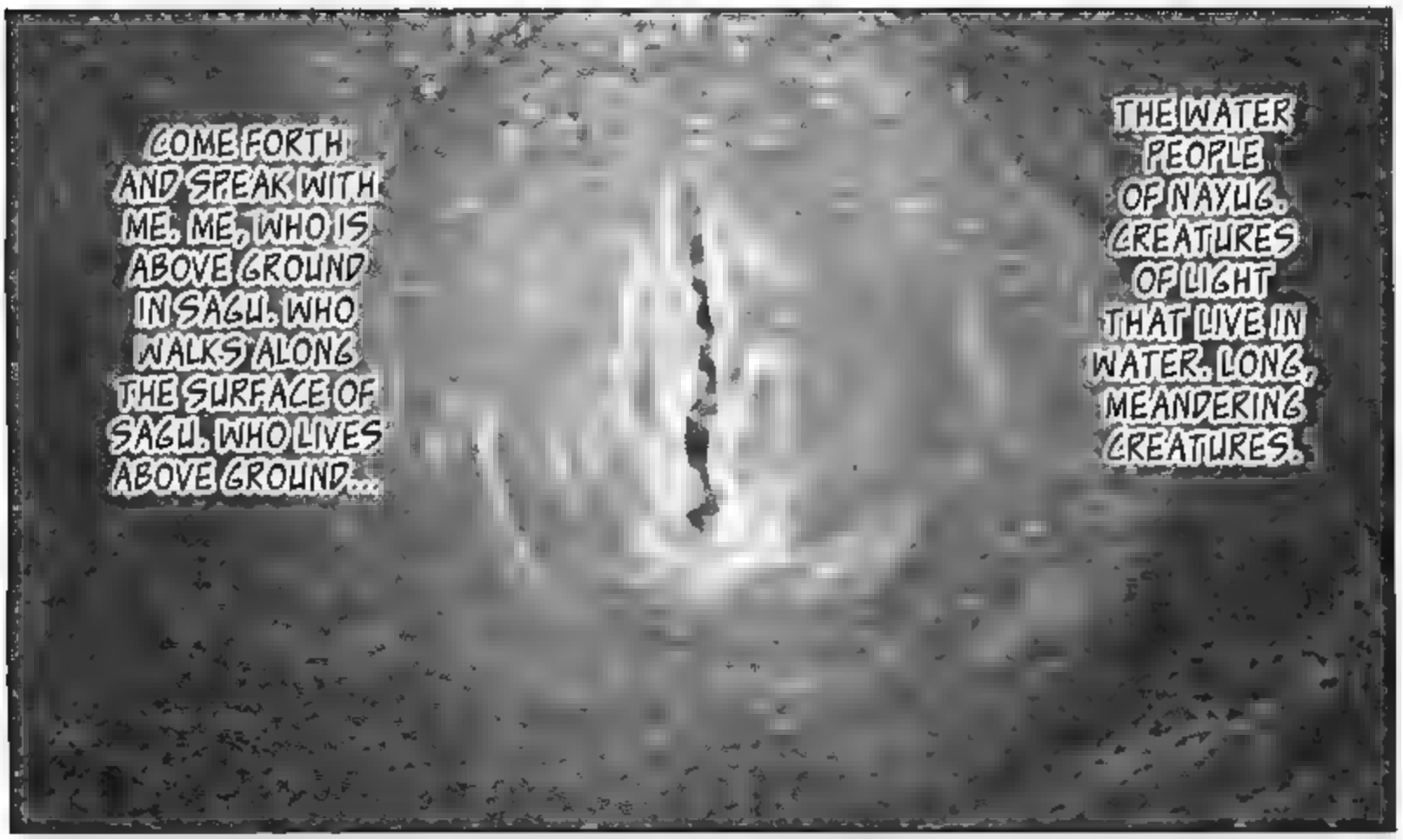
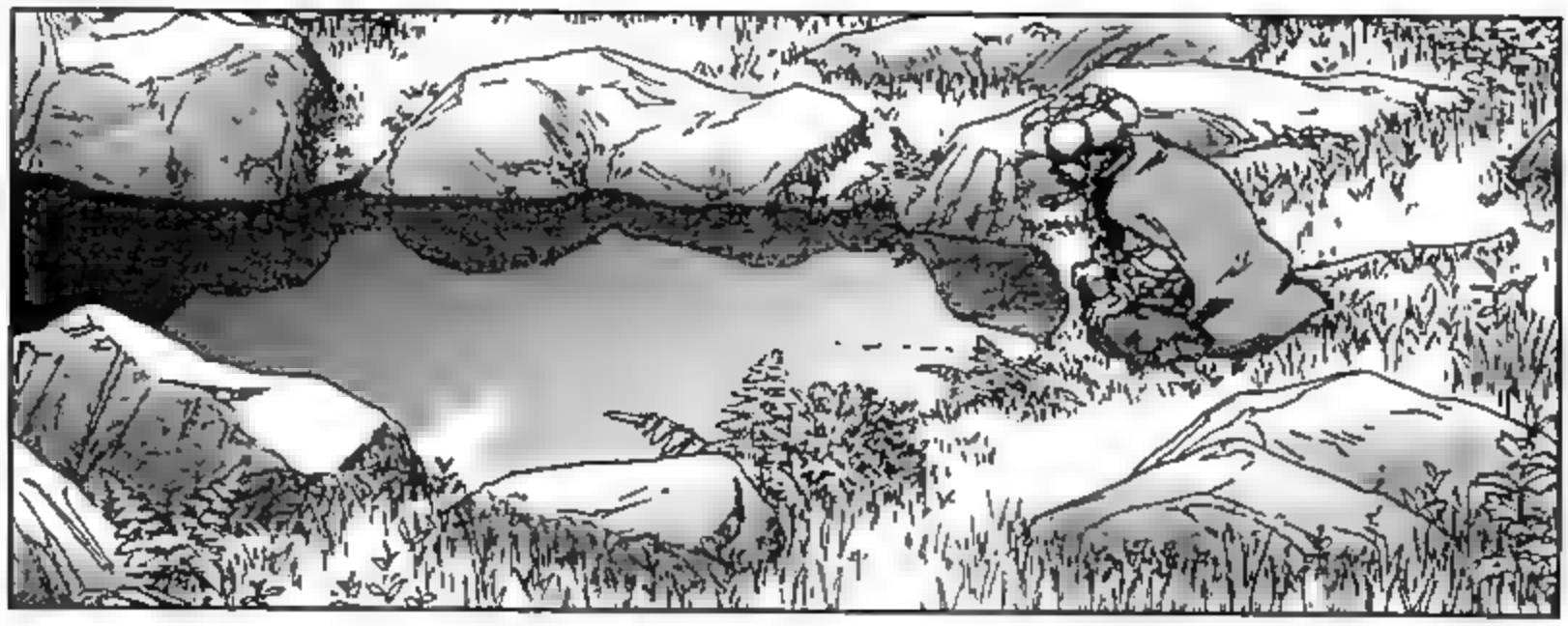
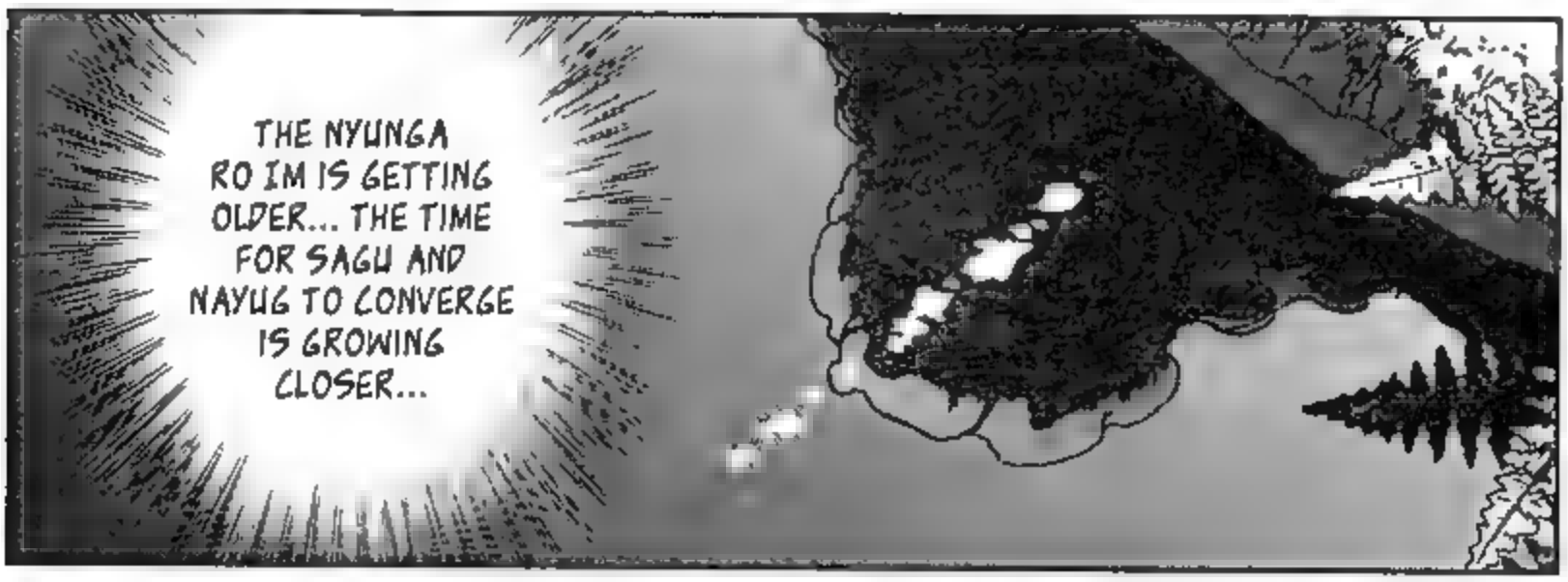
CHAPTER 7: THE POWER OF THE SHAMAN

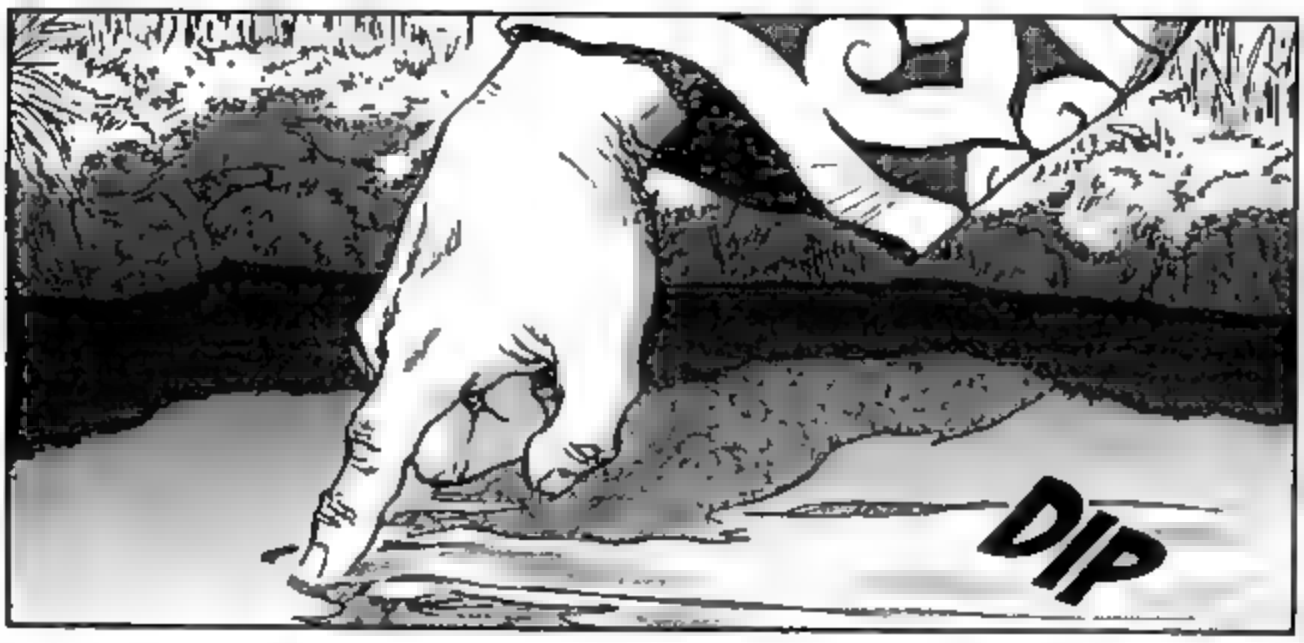


FSSSS

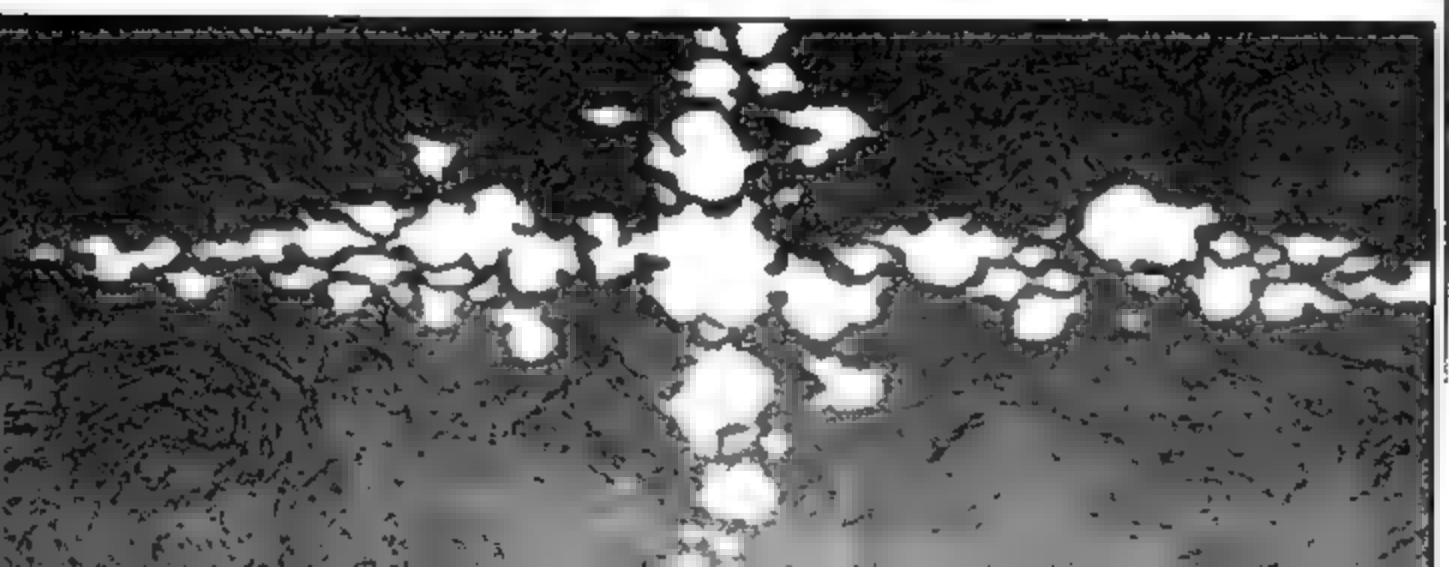

COME FORTH AND SPEAK WITH ME. ME, WHO IS ABOVE GROUND IN SAGU. WHO WALKS ALONG THE SURFACE OF SAGU. WHO LIVES ABOVE GROUND...
THE WATER PEOPLE OF NAYUG. CREATURES OF LIGHT THAT LIVE IN WATER. LONG, MEANDERING CREATURES.

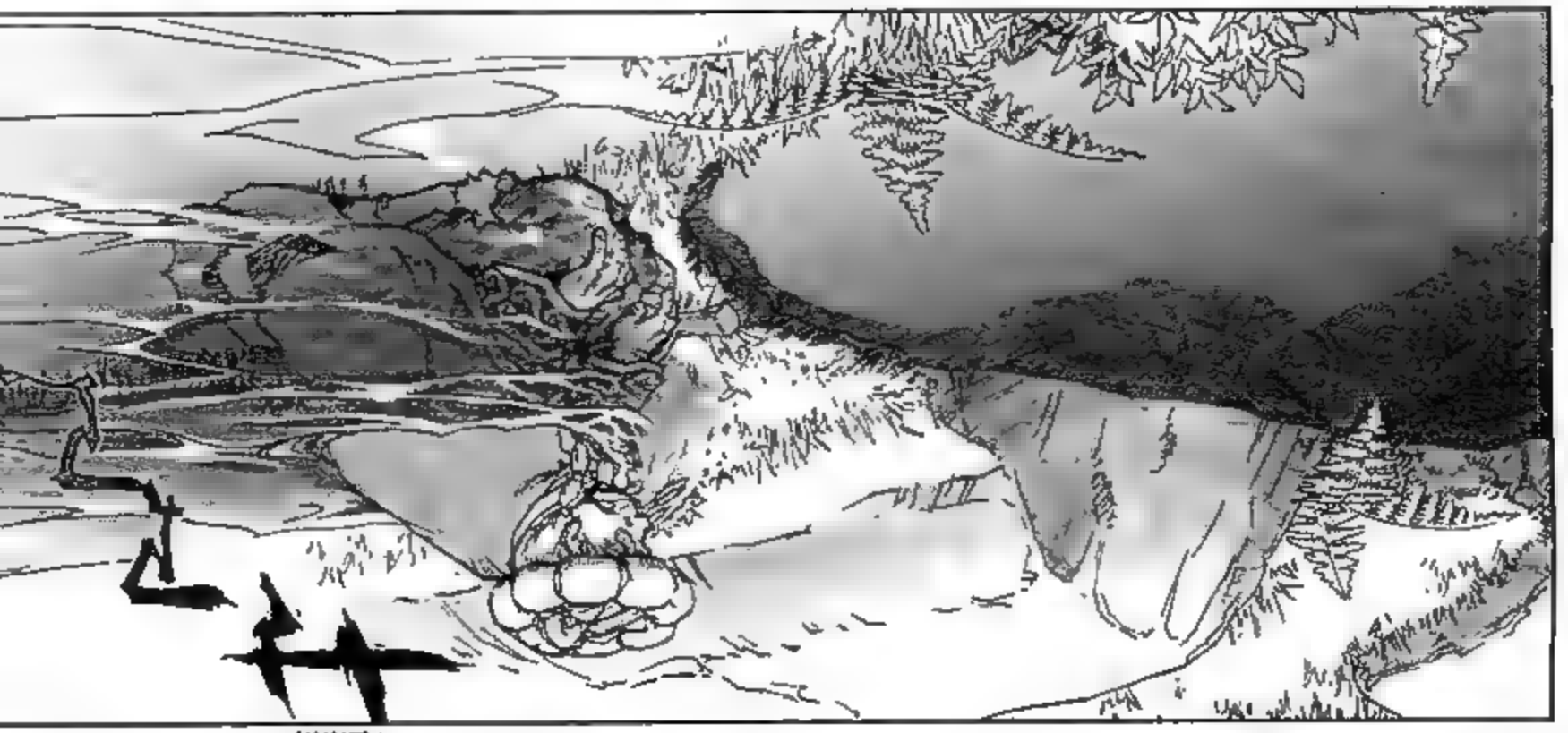



THE NYUNGA RO IM IS GETTING OLDER... THE TIME FOR SAGU AND NAYUG TO CONVERGE IS GROWING CLOSER...

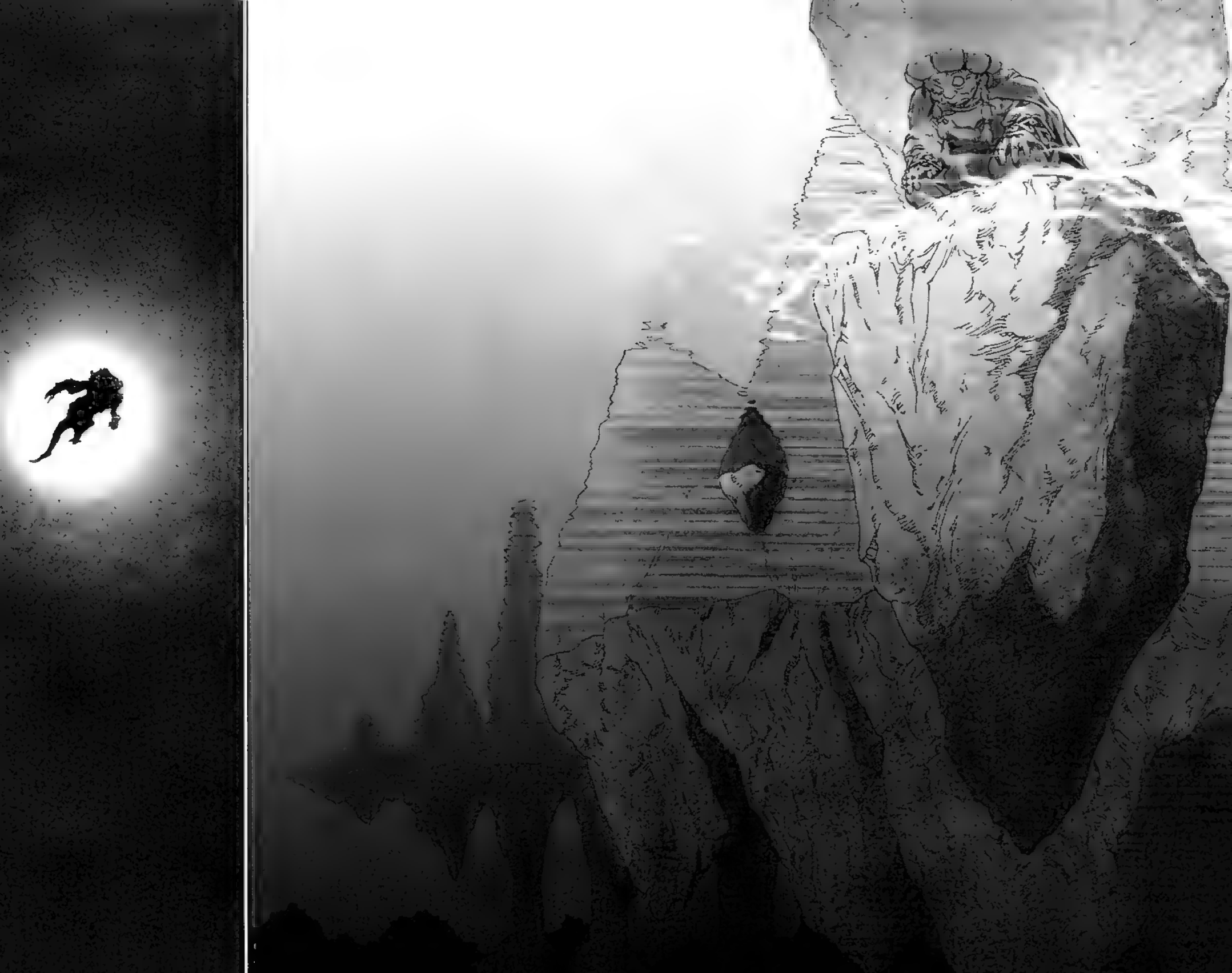

DIP

TALK TO ME. TELL ME.




KSHHH

PLUNK



I...

I AM A CREATURE OF NAYUG. WHO LIVES BENEATH THE WATER.

HAVE COME TO ANSWER YOUR CALL.

WHO FROLIC ON THE LAND...

A PERSON ABOVE GROUND IN SAGU... THE DRY PEOPLE WHO LIVE ON LAND...

WHO USE FIRE...

IT IS TOROGAI. COMMUNICATE WITH ME...

YOU HAVE COME, YONA RO GAI... WATER DWELLER...

HAS THE LA LUNGA EMERGED?

YONA RO GAI... THE EGG, THE NYUNGA RO IM HAS BEEN LAID, HASN'T IT...

IT IS DONE... FIVE EGGS ARE IN NAYUG... AND ONE HAS BEEN LAID IN SAGU...

...YES ...TWO OF THE EGGS LAID IN NAYUG HAVE SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED... EATEN BY THE LA LUNGA...

!!

GLUG

GLUG

GLUG

ARE FOOD FOR THE LA LUNGA...

BECAUSE THE EGGS LAID IN NAYUG...

HOW DID THE LA LUNGA FIND THE EGGS?

WHO HAS MORE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE LA LUNGA?

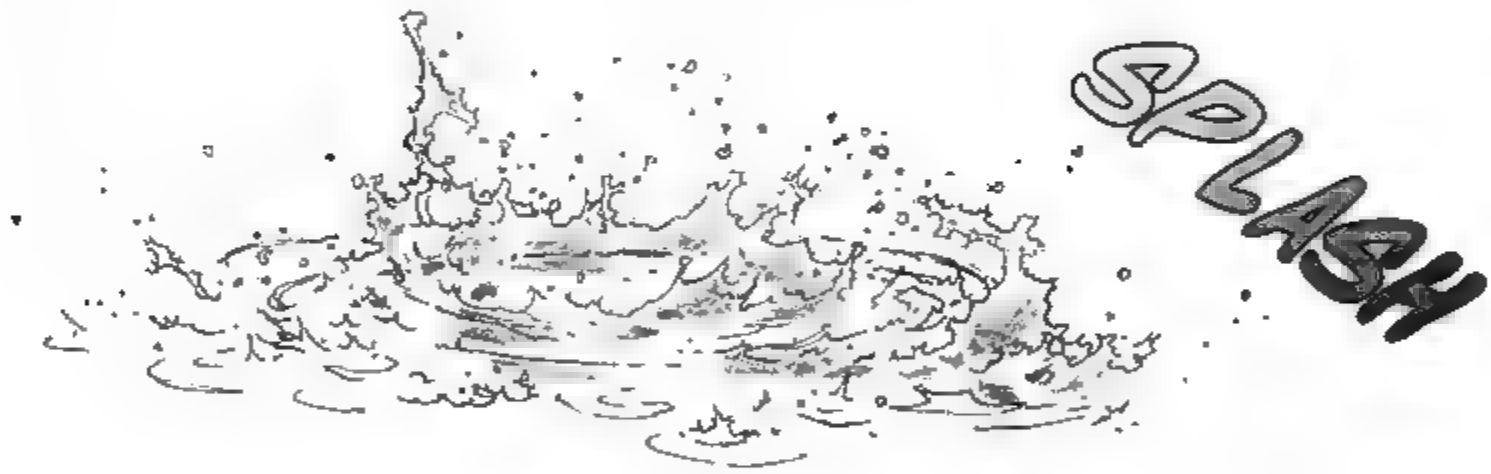
I DO NOT KNOW..

WHERE SHOULD I GO IF I WANT TO TALK TO THE CHUCHI RO GAI?

THE LA LUNGA IS THE LAND'S SPIRIT... NO ONE ELSE WOULD KNOW BUT THE CHUCHI RO GAI, THE LAND DWELLERS...

THE PLACE WHERE NAYUG AND SAGU CONVERGE...

WHERE THE LANDS RIFT...



Huff
Huff
Huff
Huff
THERE IS REALLY NO DIFFERENCE TO THE PAIN IN LAND OR IN WATER... IT'S AN UNFORTUNATE SPELL. SHEESH!
AGHHH... DAMN! I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO DIE... AND THEN I'M GOING TO HAVE TO DO IT AGAIN!
BUT BEFORE ANYTHING ELSE... I'VE GOT SOME GLOOMY HOUNDS FOLLOWING ME...
WELL, WELL...

PULL

OI! SHOW YOUR-SELF!

RUB

RUB

UFFF!

SCRAPE

SCRAPE

RUSTLE

WHOOSH

WHOOSH

CLANK

WHOOSH

WHOOSH

!

CLANG

SWISH

WHOOSH

!

TCH!

CLANK

WHAP

STAB

THUD

GYAH!

SKID

URGHH...

THUD

!

CLANK

Gulp

THUMP

HEHEHE

Augh!

FWOOMP

WAH!

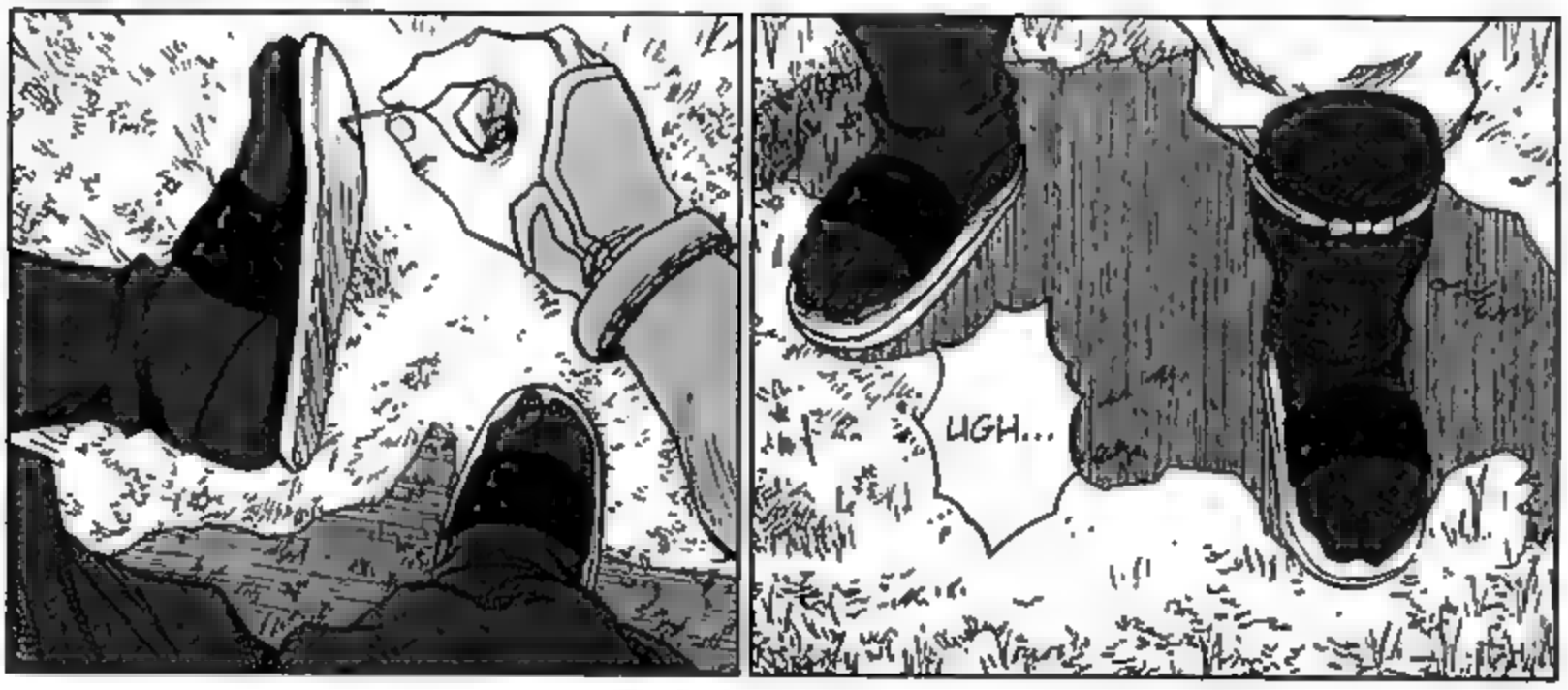
ROLL

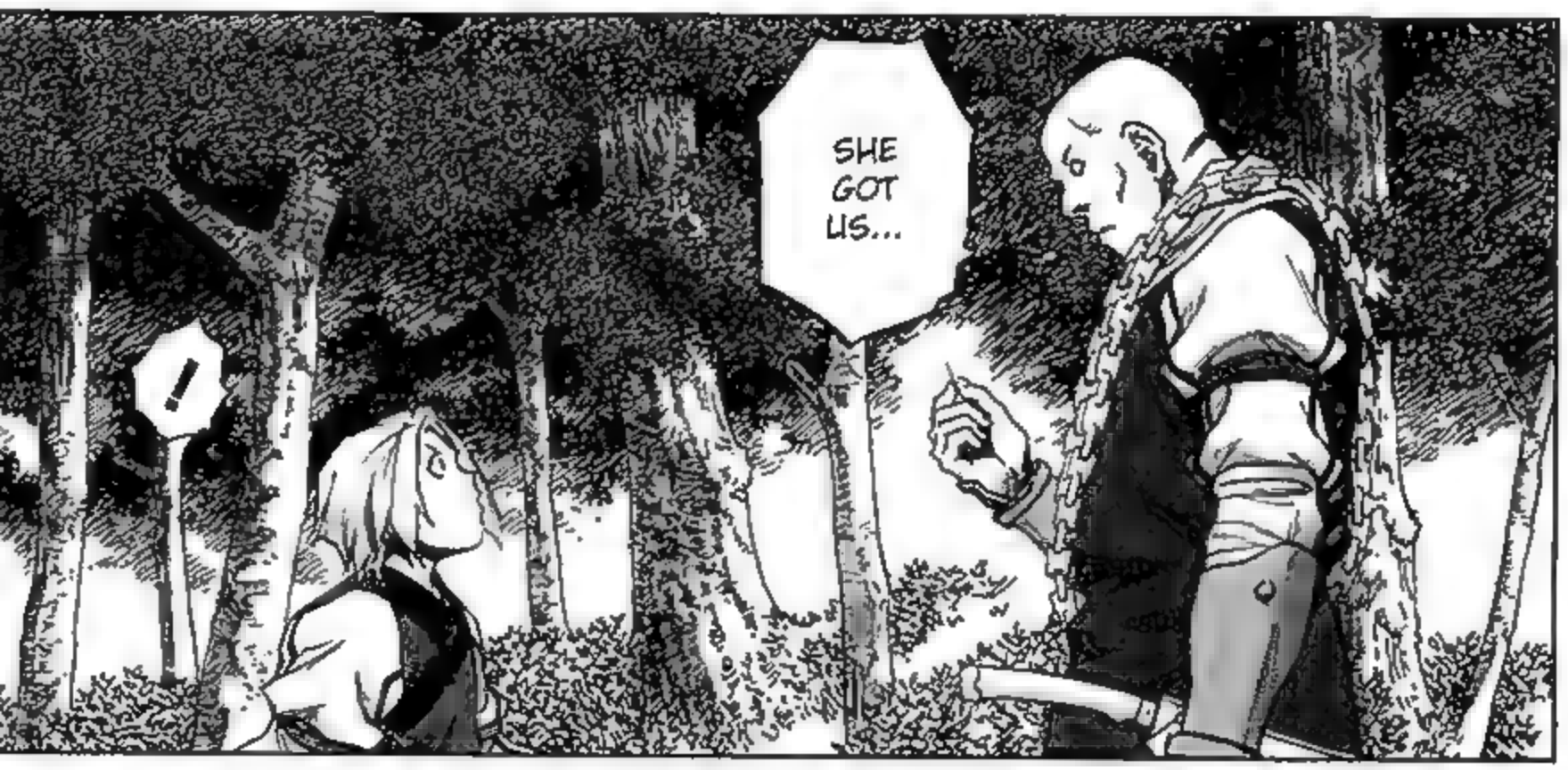
WHA ...?!

FSHHH

WHAT THE HELL...?!

IT'S A CLAY DUMMY...


UGH...


SHE GOT US...

URKK!

!

GUWAAAHHHH

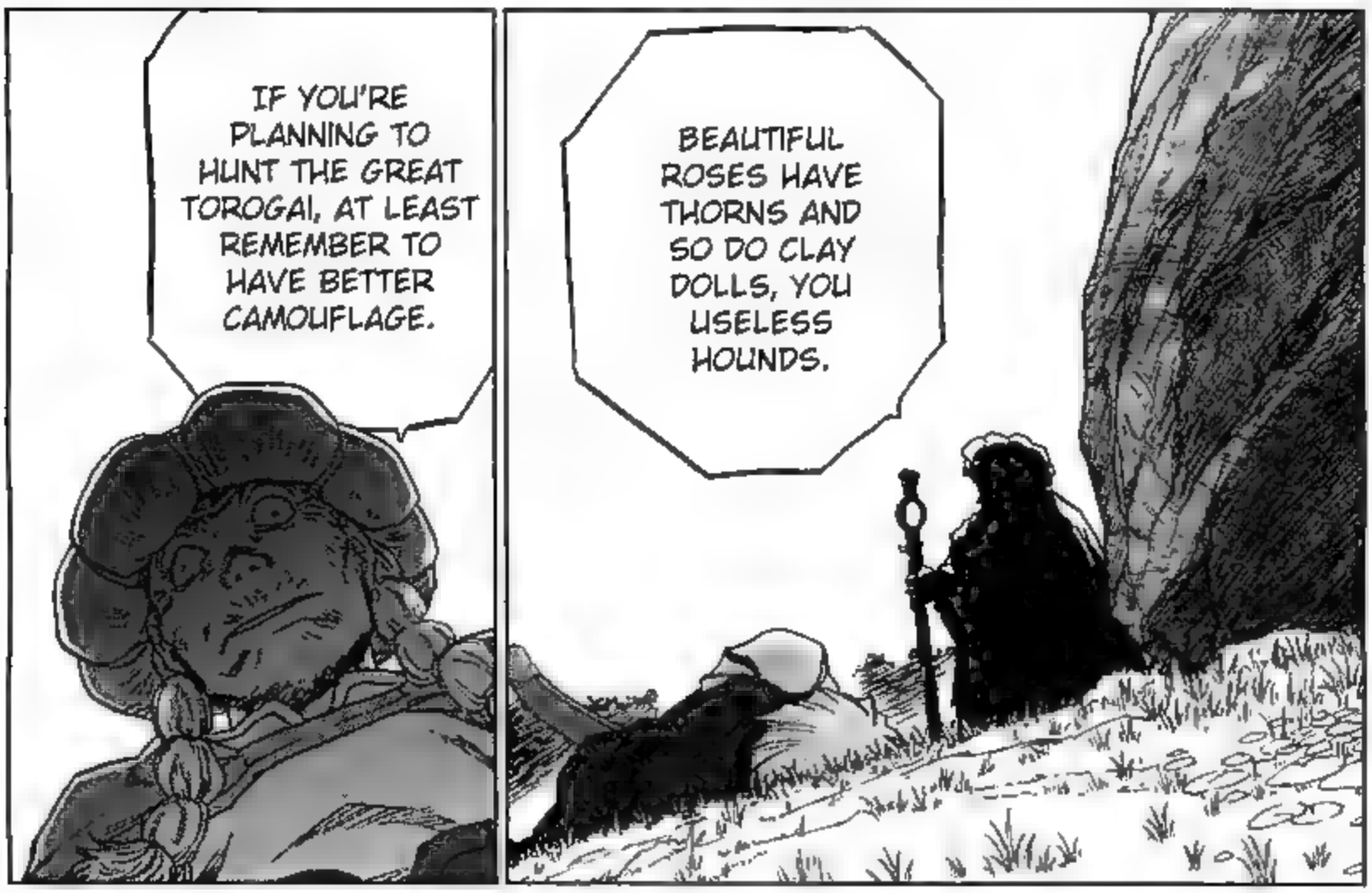
THUD

WAA
AAAA
AHH!!

!

GU
WAHH!
AUGH
HH...

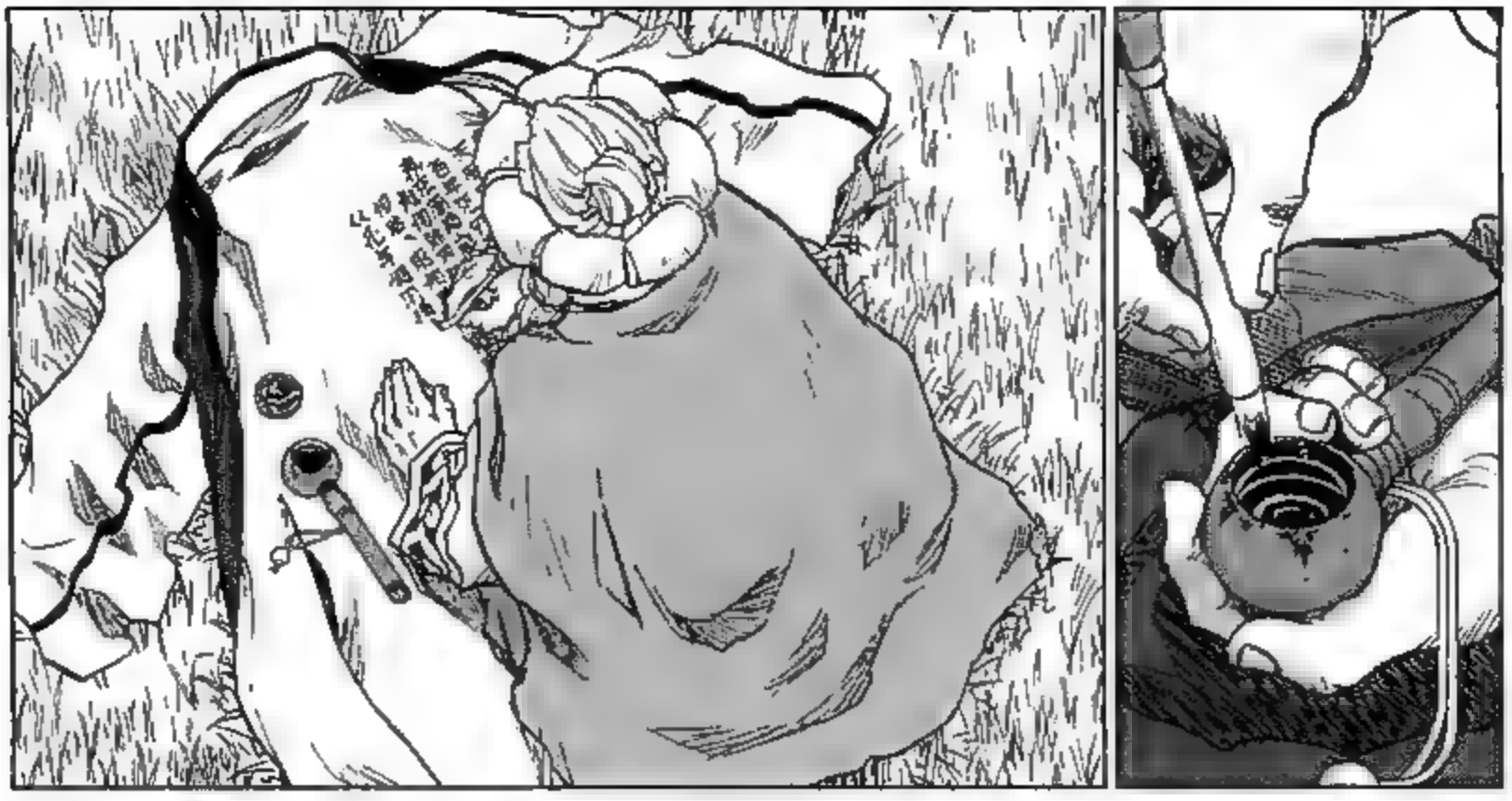
THUD

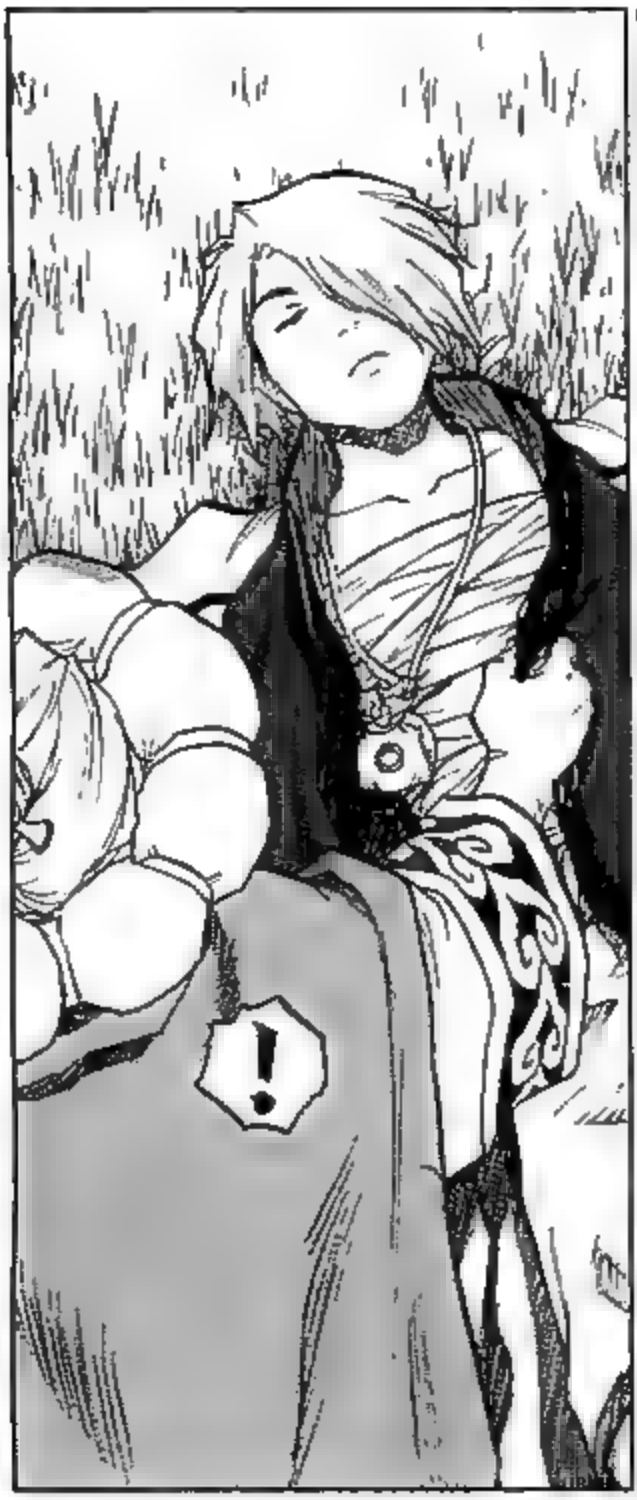

IF YOU'RE PLANNING TO HUNT THE GREAT TOROGAI, AT LEAST REMEMBER TO HAVE BETTER CAMOUFLAGE.
BEAUTIFUL ROSES HAVE THORNS AND SO DO CLAY DOLLS, YOU USELESS HOUNDS.

YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL... I COULD HAVE EASILY ADDED SOME LETHAL POISON.

BUT THE KIND, KIND TOROGAI SETTLED FOR A PARALYZING AGENT...

FWOMP




!

MAKE SURE MY LETTER GETS THERE... YOU FAITHFUL HOUND.

CLINK

AH.

OHHH.

I MIGHT FINALLY BE ABLE TO DRINK SOME GOOD SAKE IN TOWN WITH THIS...

WELL, AREN'T YOU LOADED! I'LL TAKE THIS AS YOUR RESTITUTION FOR TRYING TO CHOP MY HEAD OFF!

AH! I HAVE A GREAT IDEA!

OH! AND EAT SOME PIPING HOT BOAR STEW AT THE WHITE DEER INN...

I CAN LEAVE THE CHUCHI RO GAI BUSINESS TO HIM... THAT'S RIGHT...

I HAVE NO REASON TO OVEREXERT THIS OLD BODY OF MINE...

AHE HEHE ...

IT'S GOING TO BE GOOD TRAINING FOR HIM.

YES... THAT'S IT...

I CAN JUST EAT GOOD FOOD WHILE I LEAVE THE HARD WORK TO THAT APPRENTICE...

Seirei no Moribito

by Uehashi Nahoko, Futatsugi Saki, & Fujiwara Kamui

Chapter 8

The End

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raws > Ishitori
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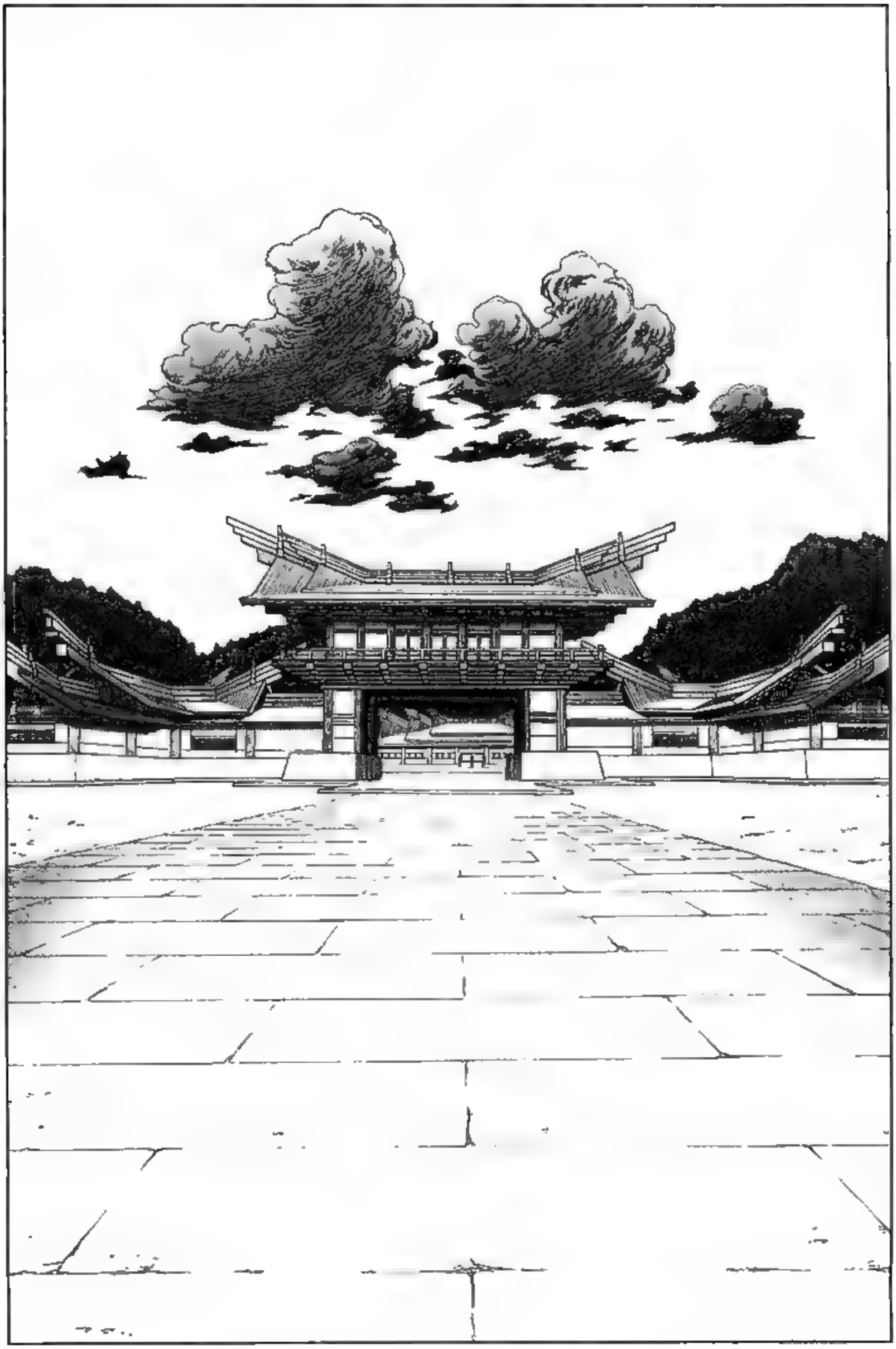
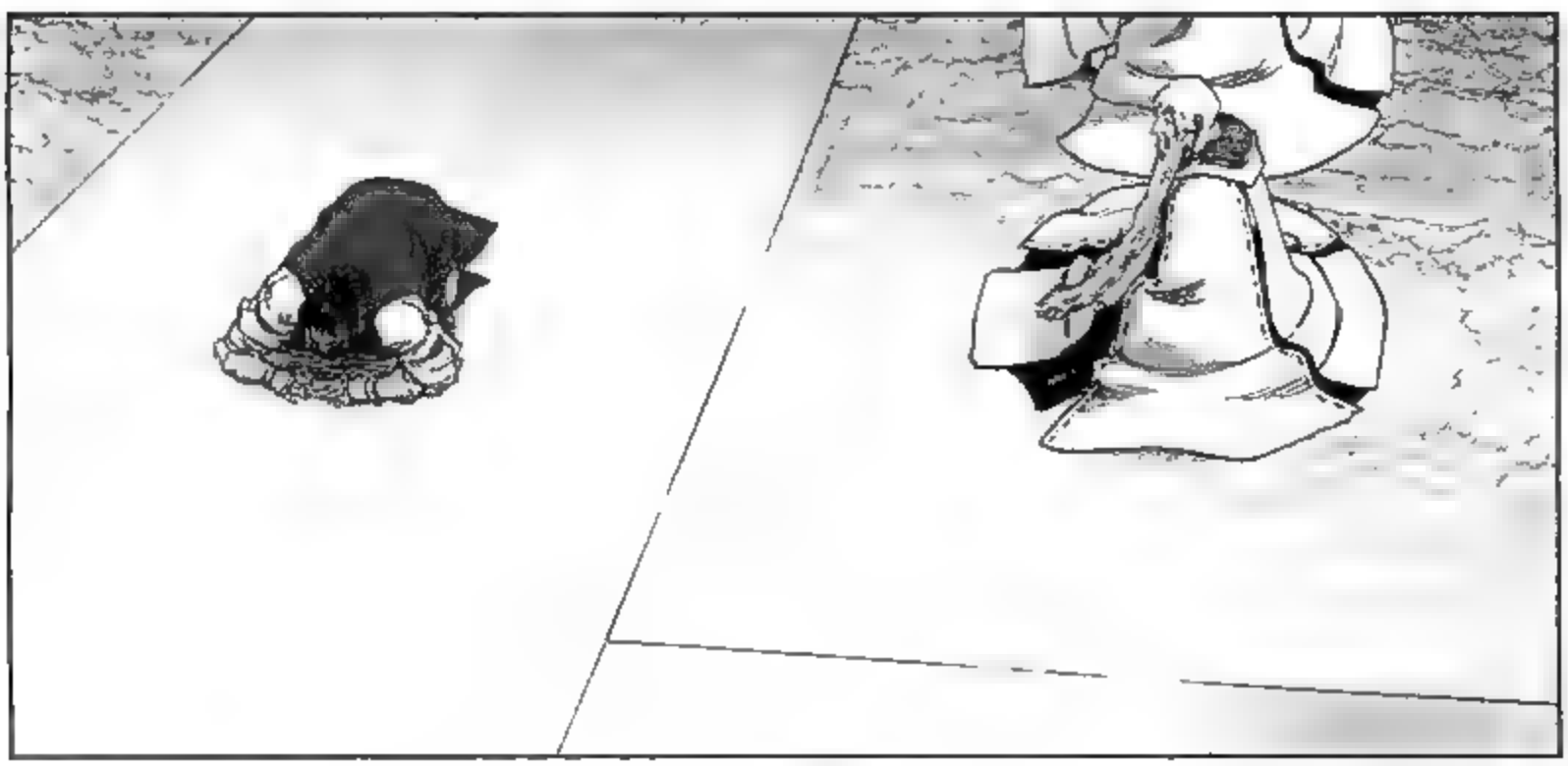
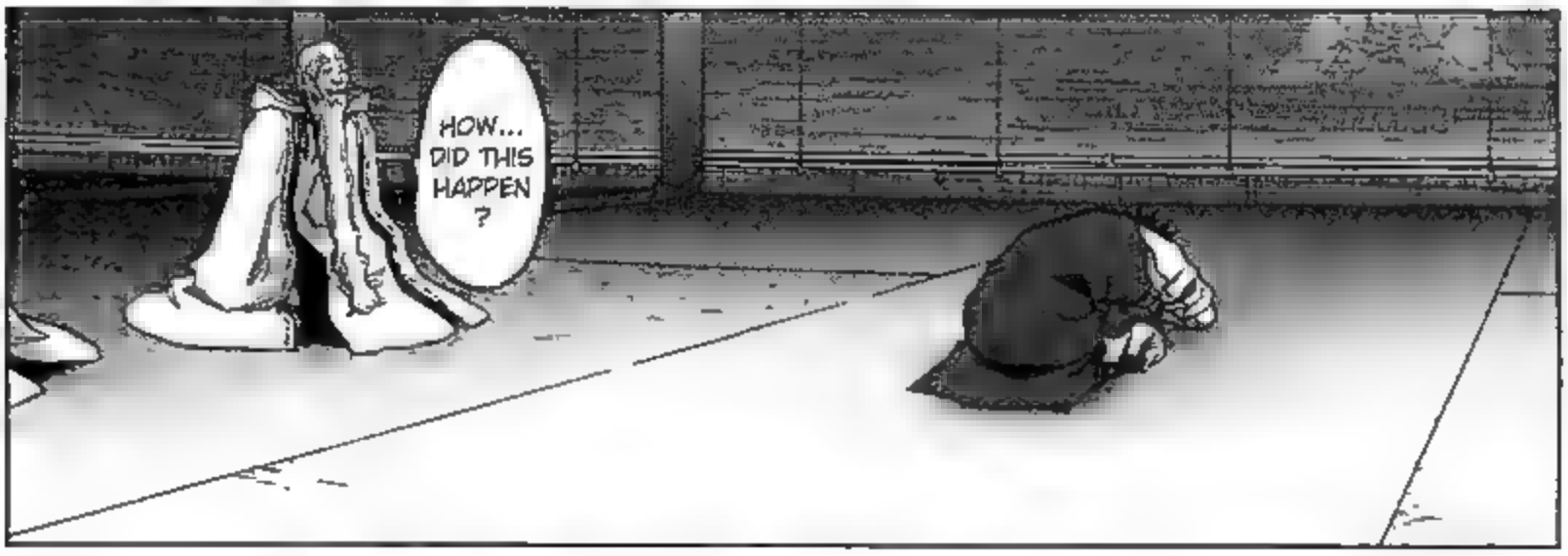
qc > Ishitori

CHAPTER 8: THE TRUE HISTORY

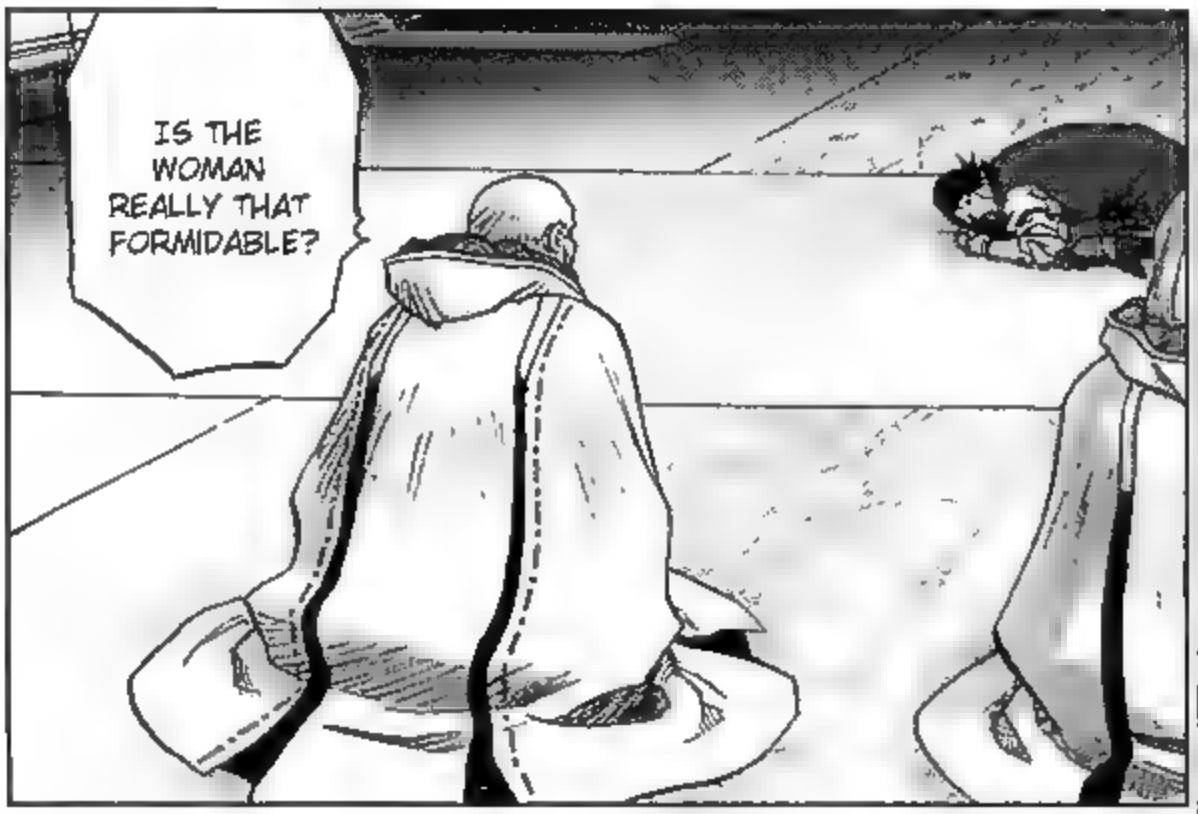





HOW... DID THIS HAPPEN ?

AND ON TOP OF THAT, YOU YOURSELF LOST CONSCIOUS-NESS FROM A BLOW TO THE HEAD...
ONE GOT HIS FACE CUT, ANOTHER GOT STABBED IN THE SHOULDER, AND YET ANOTHER IS SUFFERING FROM LIFE-THREATENING INJURIES...

.....


IS THE WOMAN REALLY THAT FORMIDABLE?

WHEN SHE KNOWS HER OPPONENT CAN SLASH HER, SHE AUTOMATICALLY GOES INTO A DEFENSIVE STANCE...

THAT WOMAN...

BUT SHE KNEW I WAS GOING TO SLASH HER IN THE TORSO, AND INSTEAD OF PREVENTING IT SHE CHOSE TO STRIKE ME ON THE HEAD INSTEAD.

YOU CAN ONLY WITHSTAND IF YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED GETTING HIT OVER AND OVER AGAIN SINCE YOU WERE YOUNG.

IT'S SOMETHING THAT...

IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU THINK ABOUT, OR SOMETHING YOU PREPARE FOR...

SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT YOU, THE LEADER OF THE HUNTERS,
!
HAD LESS TRAINING THAN THAT WOMAN...?
CLENCH

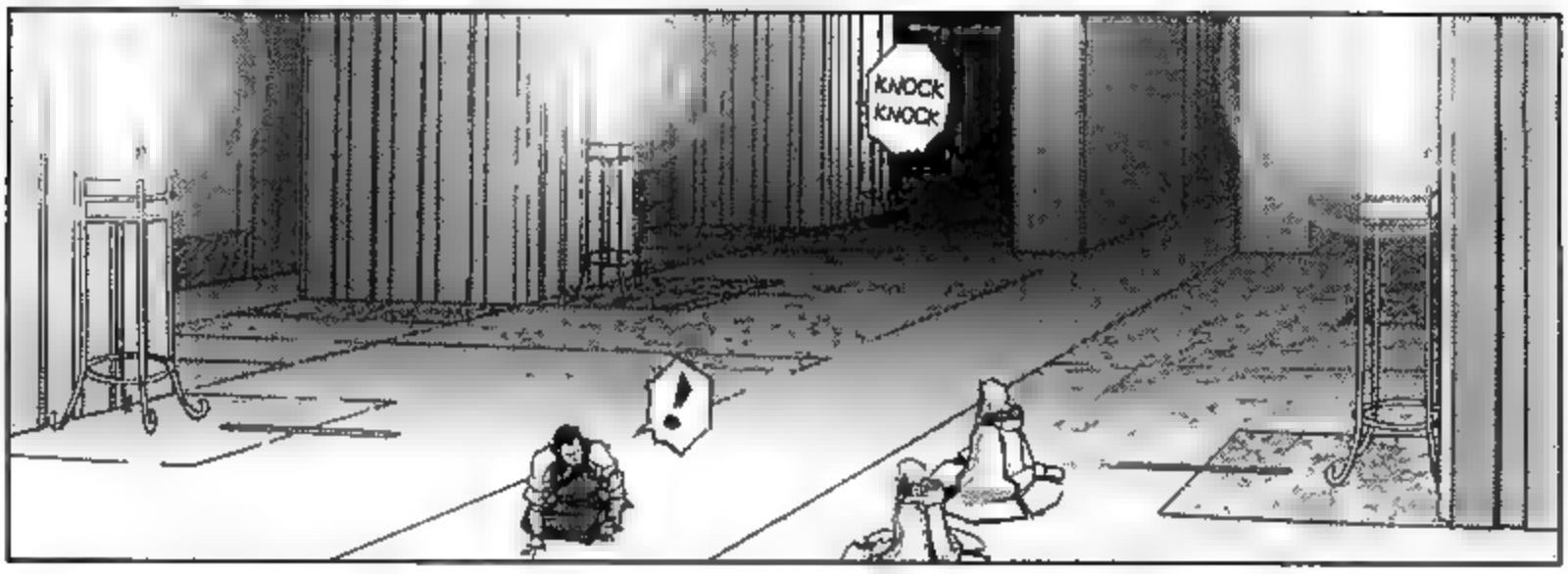
AND ON TOP OF THAT, YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT THE MEN YOU SENT AFTER THAT YAKU SHAMAN GRACEFULLY CONCEDED DEFEAT AND CAME RUNNING BACK HERE WITH NOTHING...

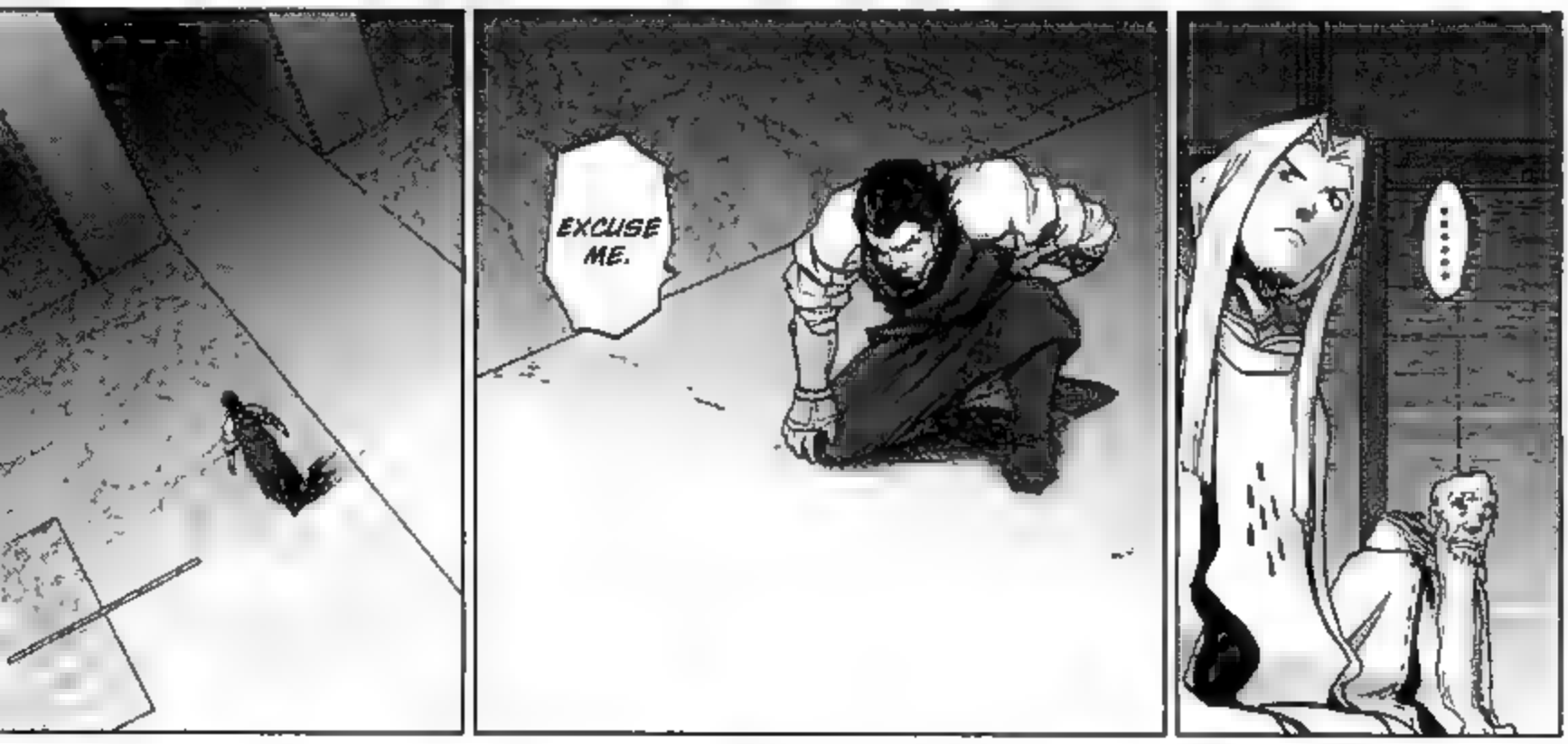
WE'RE NOT DEALING WITH AN ARMY HERE.

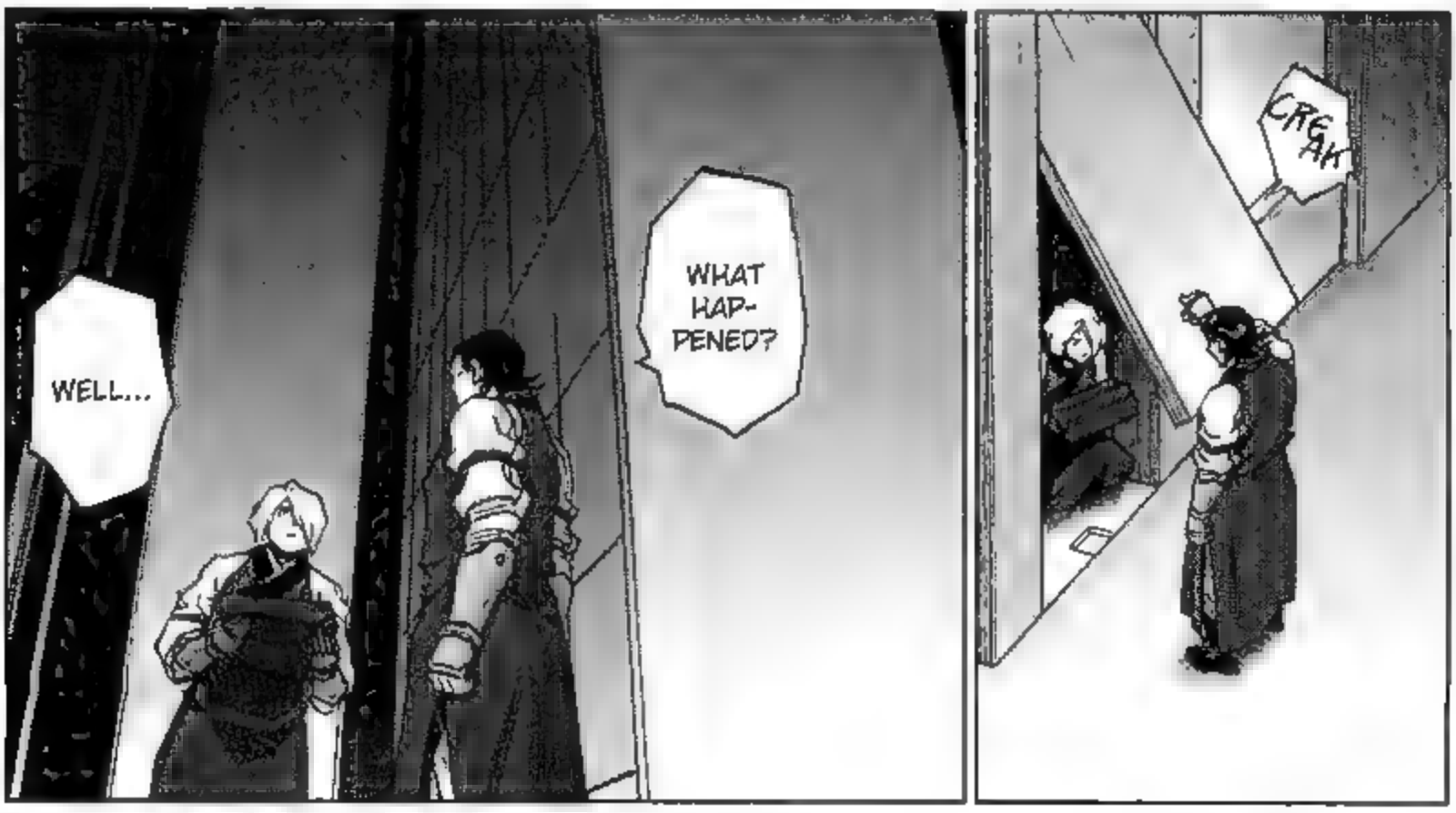
THERE HAVE NEVER BEEN SUCH INCOMPETENT HUNTERS IN IMPERIAL HISTORY.

!

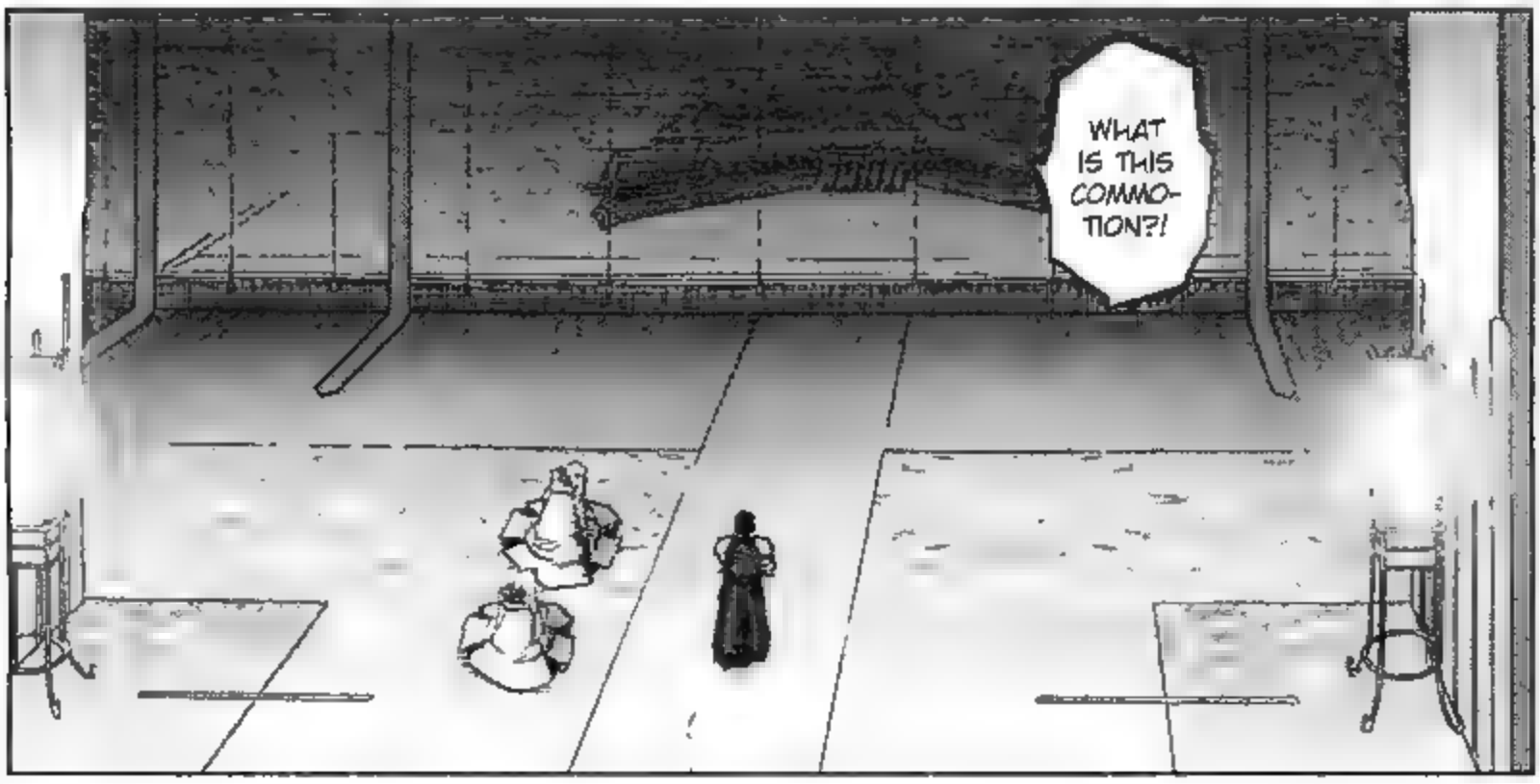
.....


KNOCK
KNOCK
!


EXCUSE ME.
.....


WELL...
WHAT HAP-PENED?
CREAK

.....
GO!!

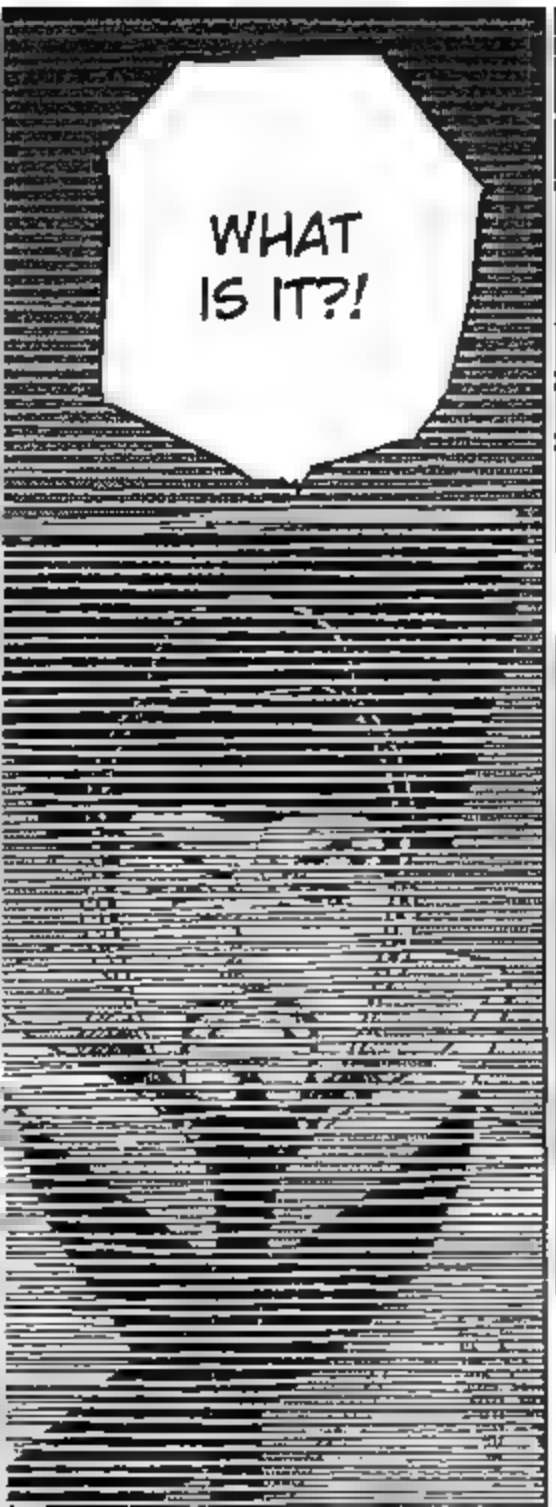

WHAT IS THIS COMMO-TION?!

THERE WAS A MESSAGE FROM TOROGAI WRITTEN ON THE CLOTHES OF ONE OF MY MEN...

SWISH

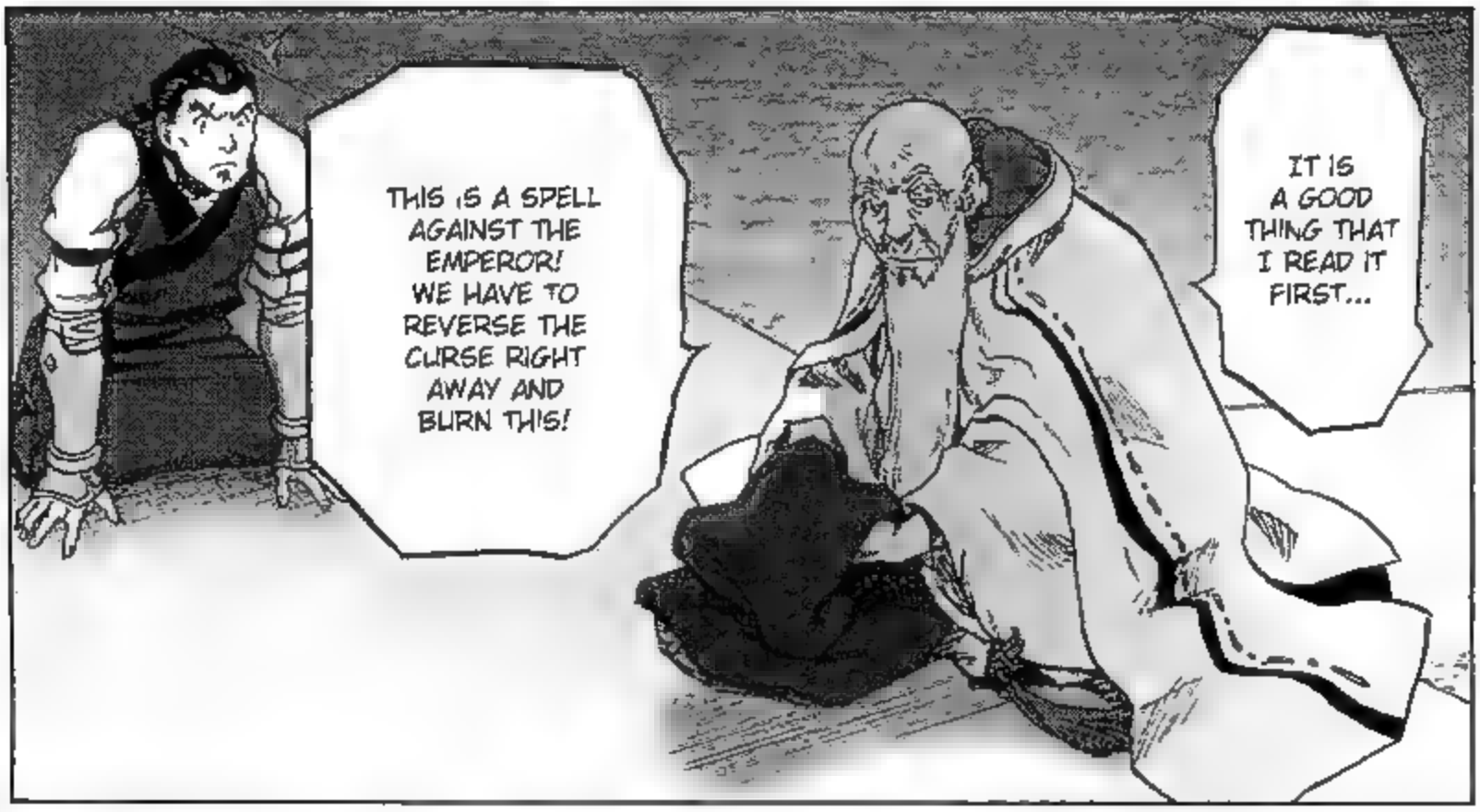
BAM
!!
WHAT
?!

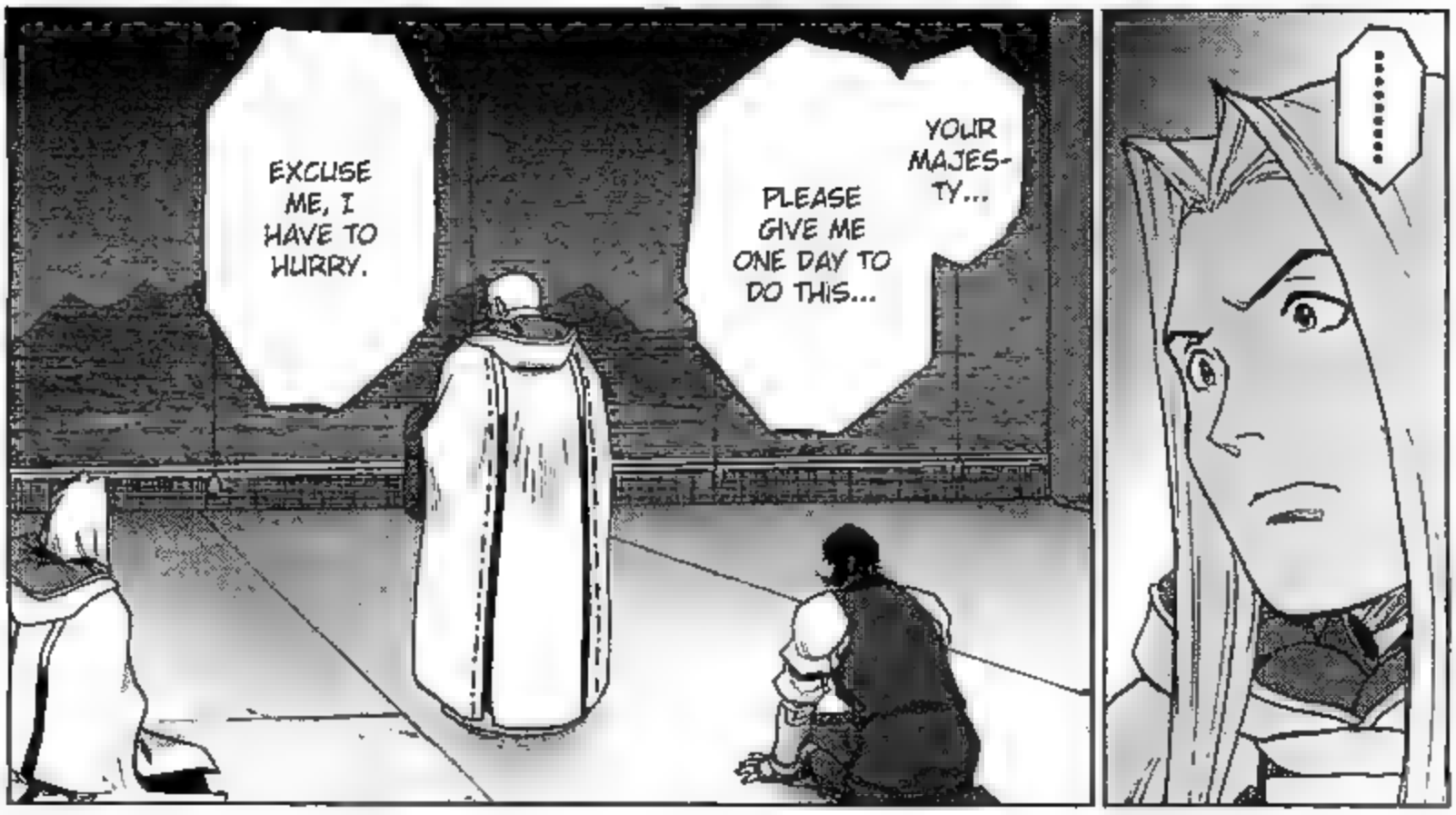
THIS COULD BE A CURSE. I WILL READ IT FIRST.


WHAT IS IT?!

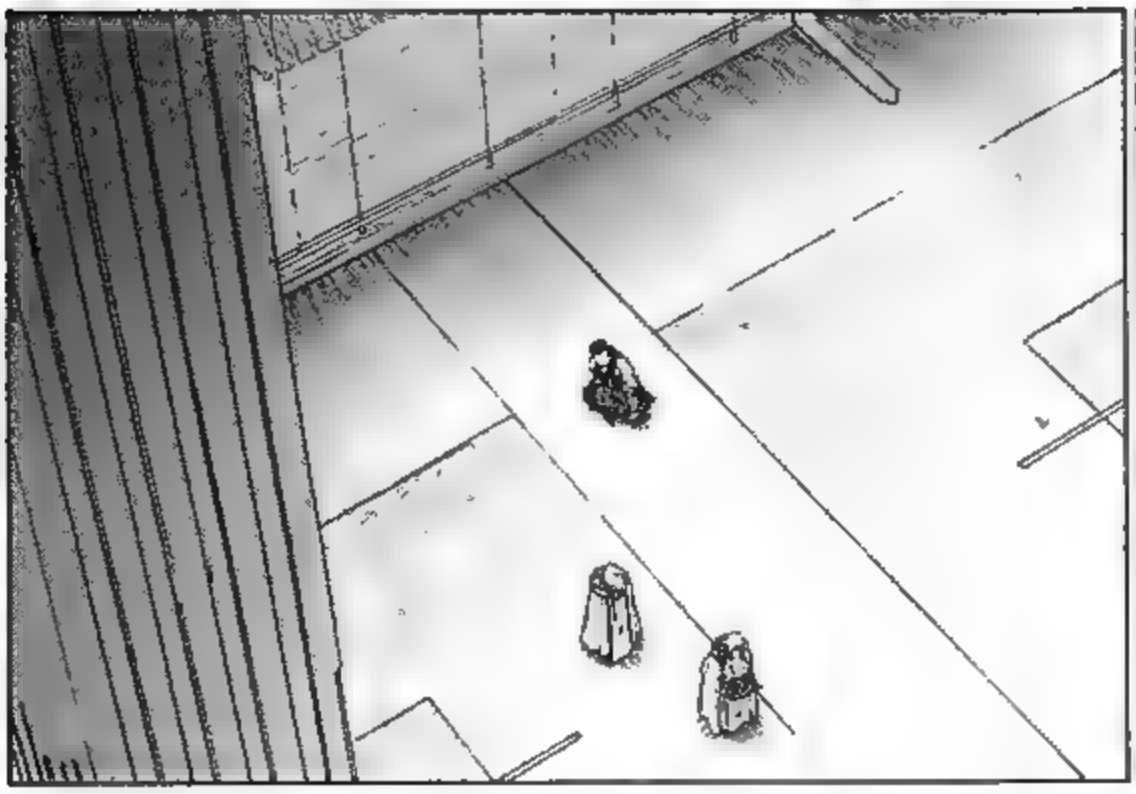
.....

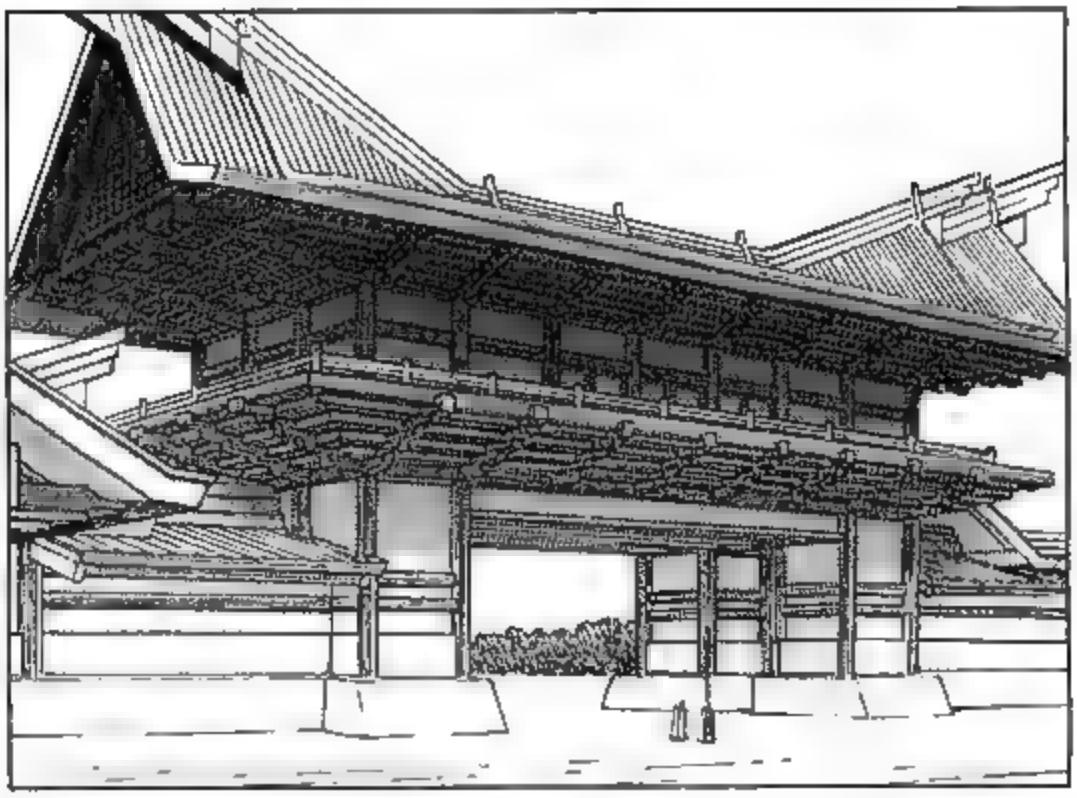
!!

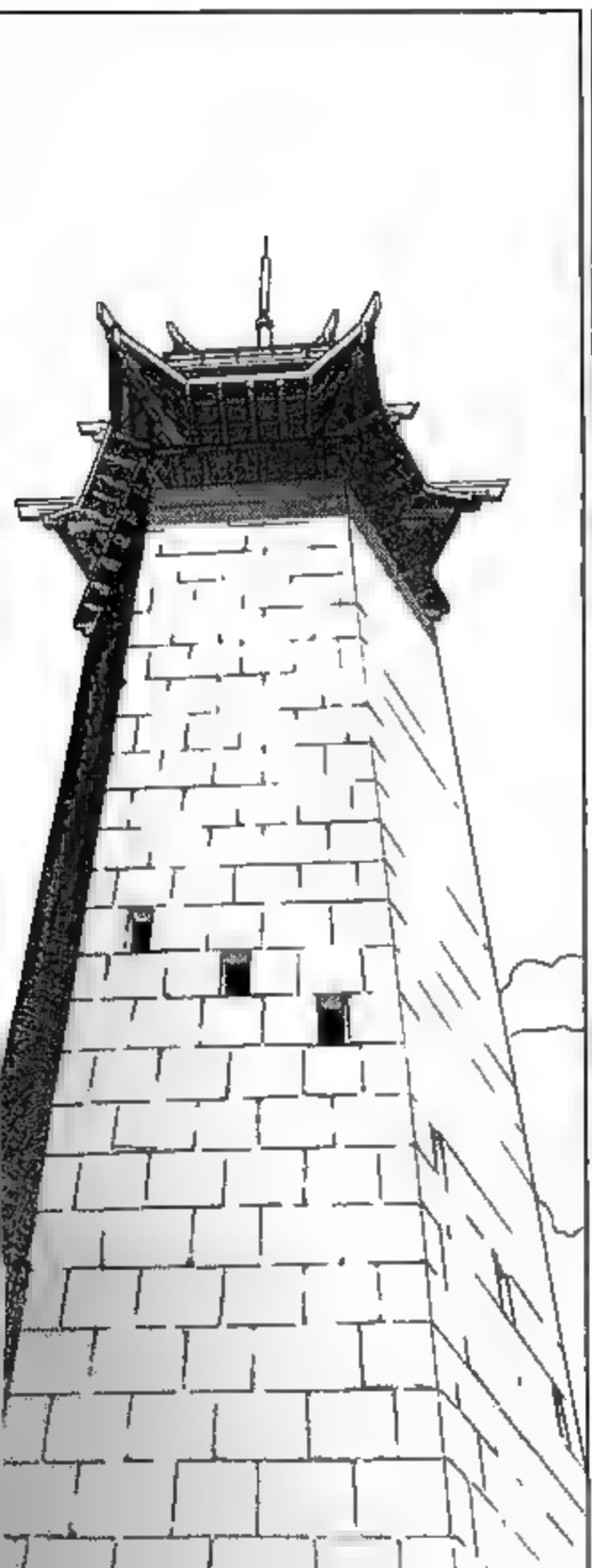

THIS IS A SPELL AGAINST THE EMPEROR! WE HAVE TO REVERSE THE CURSE RIGHT AWAY AND BURN THIS!
IT IS A GOOD THING THAT I READ IT FIRST...

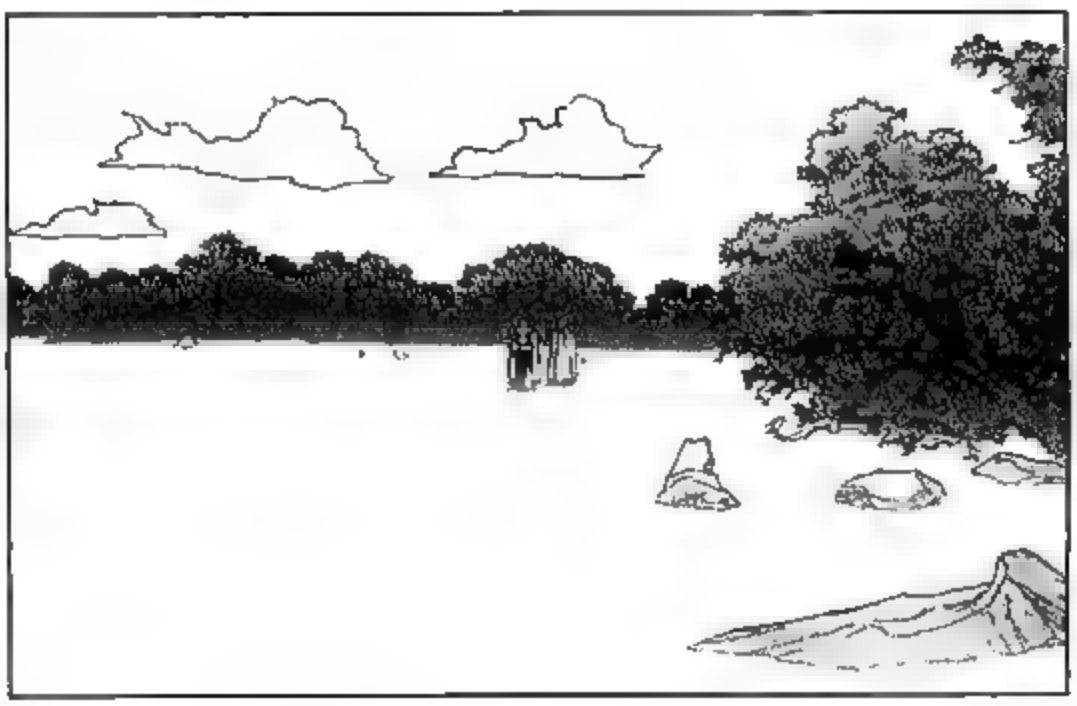

EXCUSE ME, I HAVE TO HURRY.
PLEASE GIVE ME ONE DAY TO DO THIS...
YOUR MAJES-TY...
.....

!
SHUGA AND I WILL FIGURE THIS OUT.









THERE IS NOW NO ONE ELSE HERE!

THERE'S NO CURSE.

THAT DAMN YAKU SHAMAN... SENDING SUCH AN EXQUISITE LETTER. READ IT.

IF YOU FAIL TO PROTECT IT, A HORRIBLE DROUGHT WILL BEFALL THE LAND. THE LA LUNGA, THE CREATURE WHO EATS THE EGG, HAS ALREADY STARTED LOOKING FOR IT. 200 YEARS AGO YOUR ANCESTORS AND MINE JOINED FORCES TO DEFEAT IT. THEY HAD NO TIME FOR POLITICS.

DIVINER,

DID YOU FORGET WHAT IS HAPPENING WHILE YOU WERE BUSY WHILING AWAY WITH POLITICS?

IF YOU HAD ENOUGH TIME TO CHASE AFTER ME WHILE AN IMPORTANT, ONCE-IN-A-CENTURY THING IS HAPPENING, THEN SURELY YOU HAVE TIME TO PROTECT THE EGG INHABITING THE SECOND SON.

DIVINER,

REGRETTABLY, EVEN US, THE YAKU, HAVE LOST SIGHT OF THINGS OVER TIME. SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY, WE LOST THE KNOWLEDGE OF HOW TO KILL THE LA LUNGA. IF THIS KNOWLEDGE HAS BEEN PASSED ON TO YOU, THEN STOP LOOKING AT THE SKY, START LOOKING BACK AT THE GROUND, AND KILL THE EGG EATER.

TOROGAI

EH...

A LETTER FROM A DESPERATE WOMAN...

WHO IS THIS TOROGAI PERSON?

EVEN SO. WHO WOULD REFER TO MASTER STAR DIVINERS AS JUST "DIVINERS" ASIDE FROM THE EMPEROR HIMSELF? WHO CAN

IT'S BECAUSE SHE IS A YAKU SHAMAN. SHE KNOWS WHAT STRANGE THINGS GO ON IN THIS WORLD...

IT'S OBVIOUS FROM THIS LETTER THAT THIS PERSON CLEARLY KNOWS MORE ABOUT THE WATER SPIRIT THAN WE DO...

BUT ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL RECORDS, THE YAKU FEAR THE WATER SPIRIT. BUT EVEN THEN,
THIS PERSON IS TELLING US TO PROTECT THE EGG GROWING INSIDE THE PRINCE.

SHE IS SAYING THAT OUR GREAT SAGE NANAI FOUGHT ALONGSIDE THEM TO DEFEAT THE EGG EATER...

COULD IT BE...
.....
...COULD IT BE WHAT?

!!

THE...

I THINK PARTS OF IT WERE EMBELLISHED TO STABILIZE THE CITIZENSHIP WHEN THE COUNTRY WAS STILL NEWLY ESTABLISHED.
THE LEGEND WRITTEN IN OUR OFFICIAL HISTORY...

THEN TO PROTECT THE EGG, OUR ANCESTORS AND THE GREAT SAGE NANAI JOINED FORCES WITH THAT YAKU SHAMAN TO EXTERMINATE THE LA LUNGA...
IF THIS LETTER IS TRUE... THEN THAT MEANS THAT A HUNDRED YEARS AGO, THERE WERE TWO CREATURES THAT EMERGED, NOT ONE: THE EGG, AND THAT "LA LUNGA".

THE EGG HAS SOME CONNECTION TO THE WATER, AND IF IT WE FAIL TO PROTECT IT, A GREAT DROUGHT WILL COME...

THE EGG IS INSIDE THE SECOND PRINCE, IS IT NOT?

!

.....

AHH... THAT IS WHAT WE HAVE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT...

SHUGA
...

!!

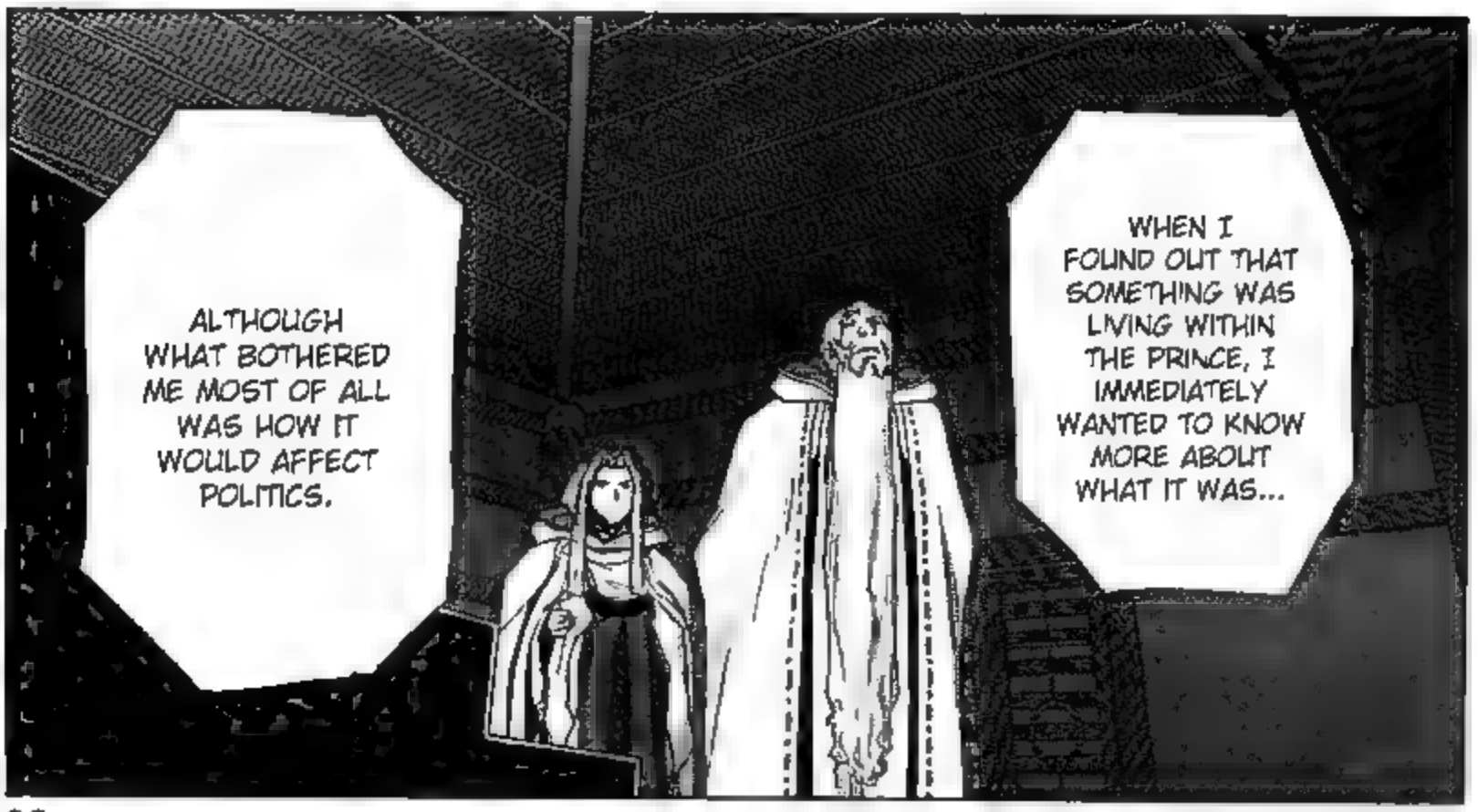
DAMN...
I GOT TOO
CARRIED AWAY.
I SAID TOO MUCH...
HE'S GOING TO BE
FURIOUS...

PEOPLE LEARN
AND DISCOVER
VARIOUS THINGS
AS THEY GROW OLD,
BUT THEY ALSO
FORGET VARIOUS
THINGS ALONG
THE WAY...

THIS SHRINE
HAS TWO FACES.
ONE IS TO READ
THE STARS AND FIND
OUT THE FUTURE,
AND THE OTHER IS
TO GUIDE THIS
COUNTRY'S
GOVERNMENT TO
THE CORRECT
PATH.

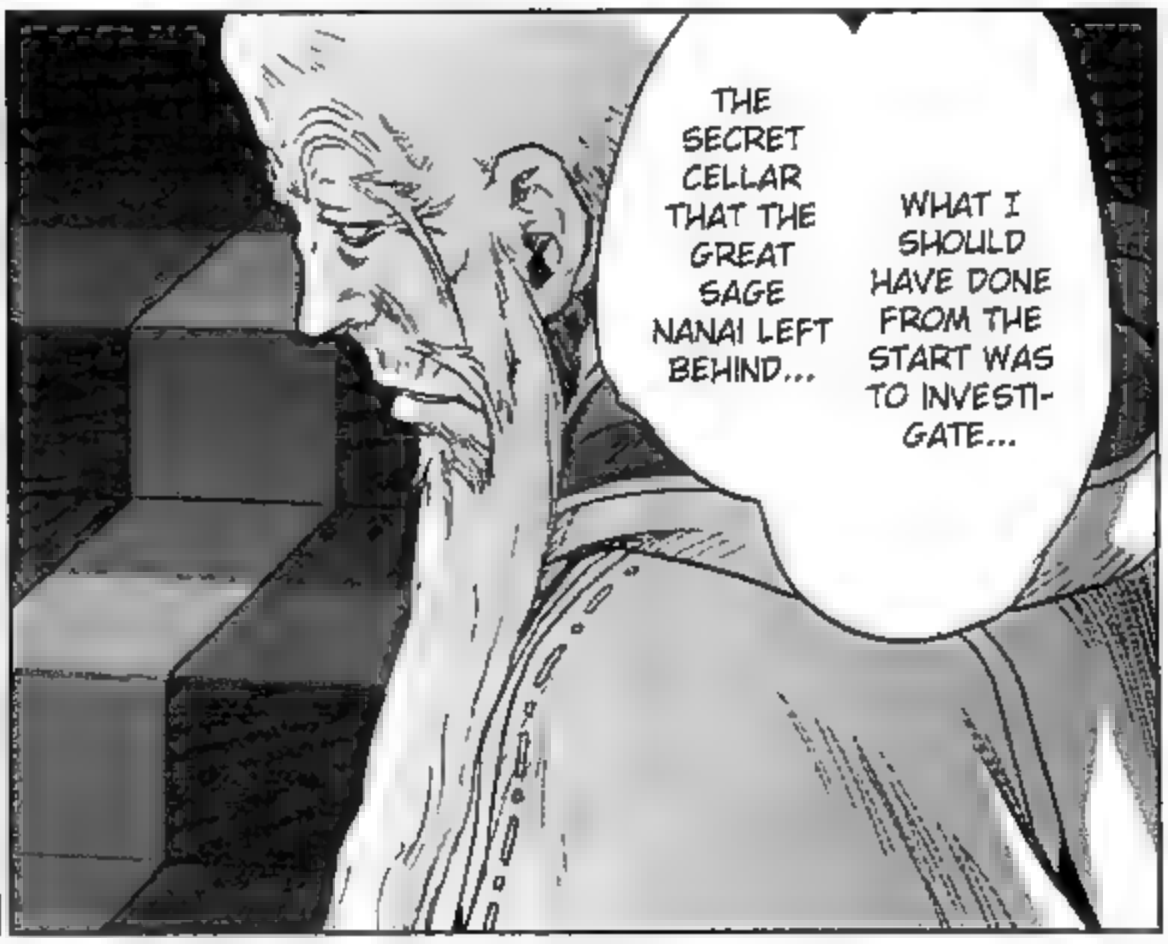
SOMEHOW WITH TIME, STAR DIVINERS HAVE BECOME MORE ENTANGLED IN MANAGING POLITICAL AFFAIRS THAN IN ACTUALLY READING THE STARS AS THEY WERE NATURALLY INCLINED TO DO...
PEOPLE ARE AND ALWAYS WILL BE EMBROILED IN POLITICS ...

AT SOME POINT ALONG THE WAY, THEY STARTED TO ONLY SEE EVERYTHING THROUGH THE LENS OF POLITICS.


ALTHOUGH WHAT BOTHERED ME MOST OF ALL WAS HOW IT WOULD AFFECT POLITICS.
WHEN I FOUND OUT THAT SOMETHING WAS LIVING WITHIN THE PRINCE, I IMMEDIATELY WANTED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT WHAT IT WAS...

I HAVE FAILED FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.
THE BLAME DOESN'T SOLELY LIE ON THE HUNTERS.

A SECRET CELLAR?


THE SECRET CELLAR THAT THE GREAT SAGE NANAI LEFT BEHIND...
WHAT I SHOULD HAVE DONE FROM THE START WAS TO INVESTI-GATE...

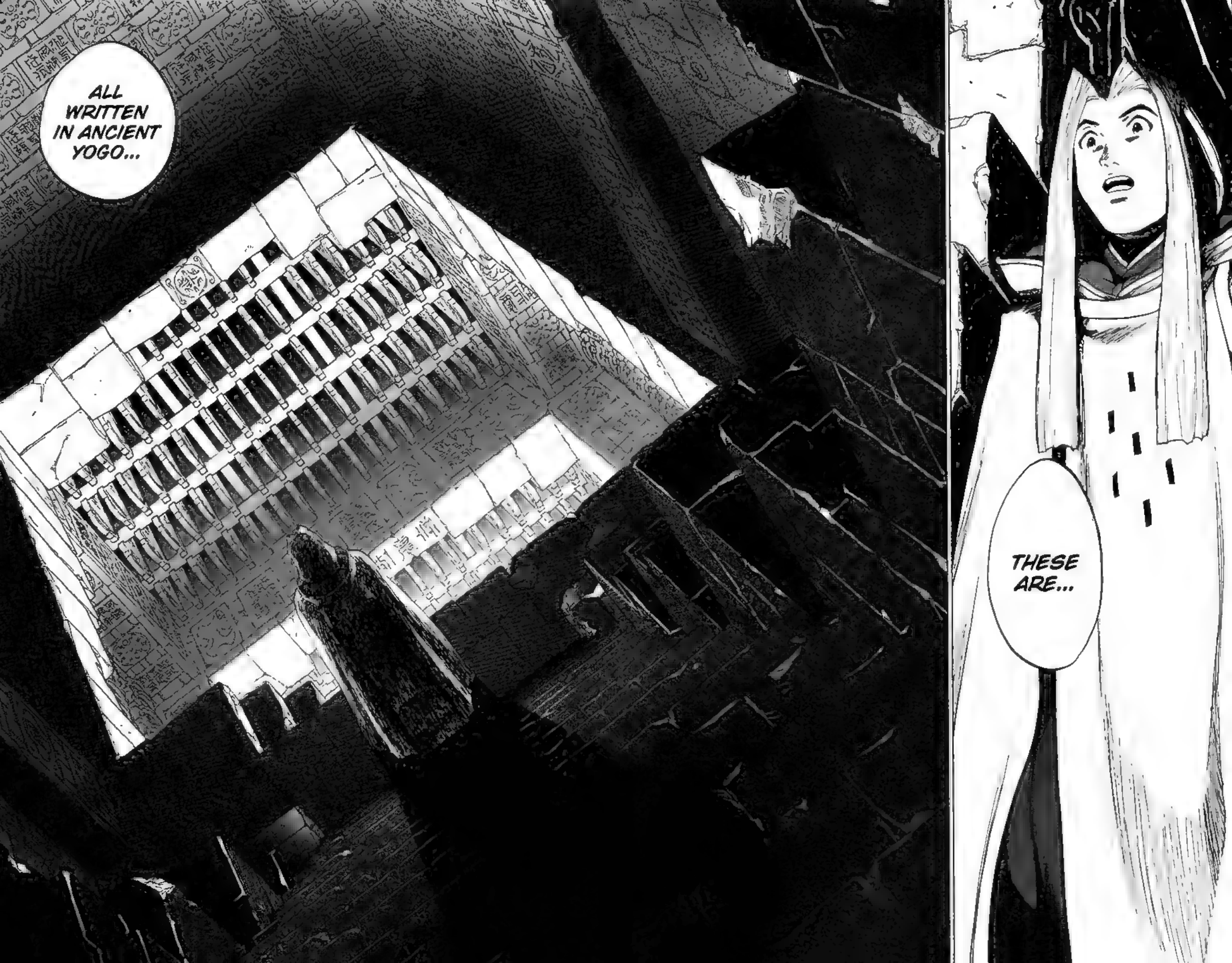
IN THIS PALACE, THERE IS A SECRET SHRINE THAT ONLY THE HOLY SAGES KNOW ABOUT.

IN THERE ARE SECRET WRITINGS BY THE GREAT SAGE NANAI.

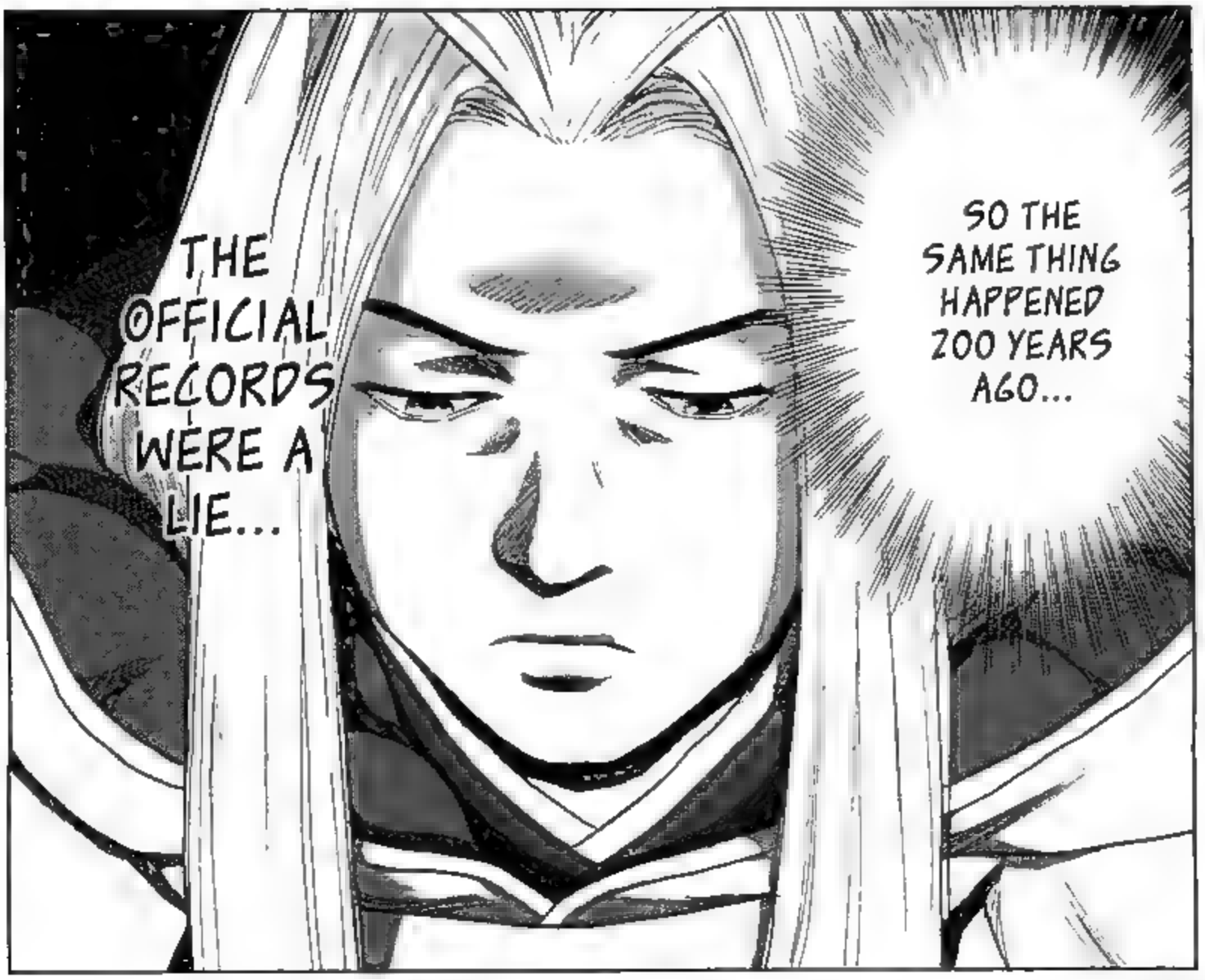
DECODING IT WOULD REQUIRE A LOT OF ENDURANCE AND CONCENTRATION!

BUT IT IS ALL WRITTEN IN THE ANCIENT YOGO LANGUAGE...

SO I CHARGE YOU WITH THIS TASK... FIND OUT WHAT REALLY HAPPENED 200 YEARS AGO!


ALL WRITTEN IN ANCIENT YOGO...
THESE ARE...

WE ARE DOING THIS OF OUR OWN VOLITION. DECIPHERING THE ANCIENT TEXTS HAS TO BE RECORDED IN HISTORY AS AN ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE STAR DIVINERS.
KEEP IN MIND... WE ARE NOT DOING THIS BECAUSE OF THAT YAKU SHAMAN.


THE OFFICIAL RECORDS WERE A LIE...
SO THE SAME THING HAPPENED 200 YEARS AGO...

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Chapter 9

The End

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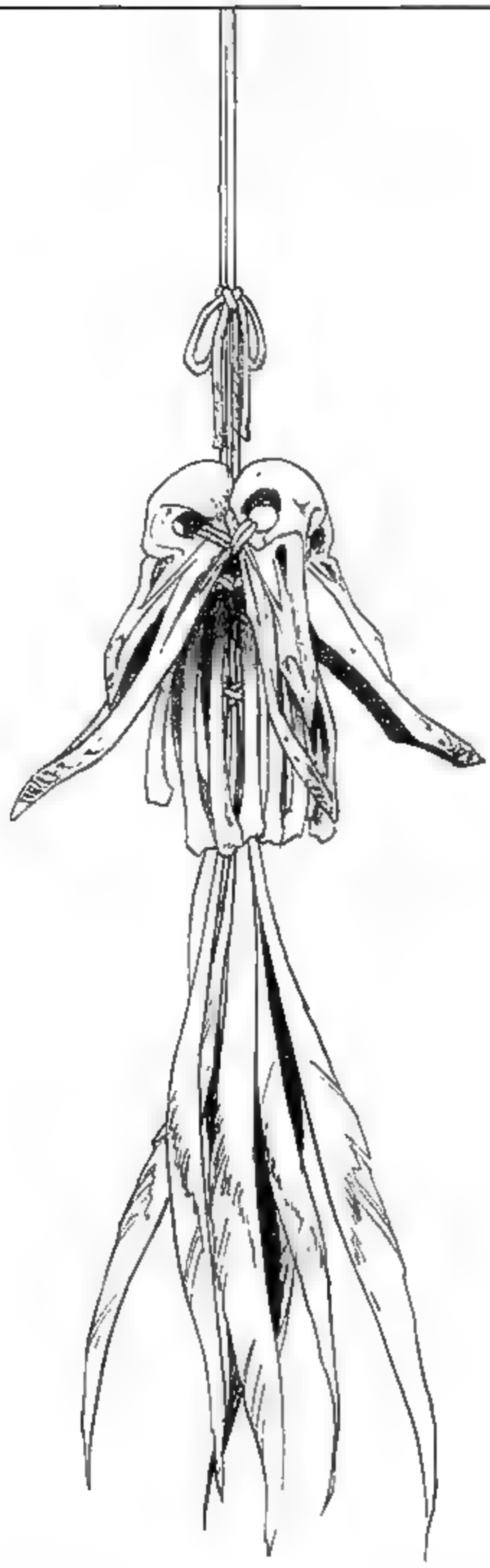


CHAPTER 9: THE SMALL STORYTELLER

GOOD THING IT'S JUST A FLESH WOUND... IF I HAD A BROKEN BONE IT WOULDN'T HAVE HEALED THIS QUICKLY.

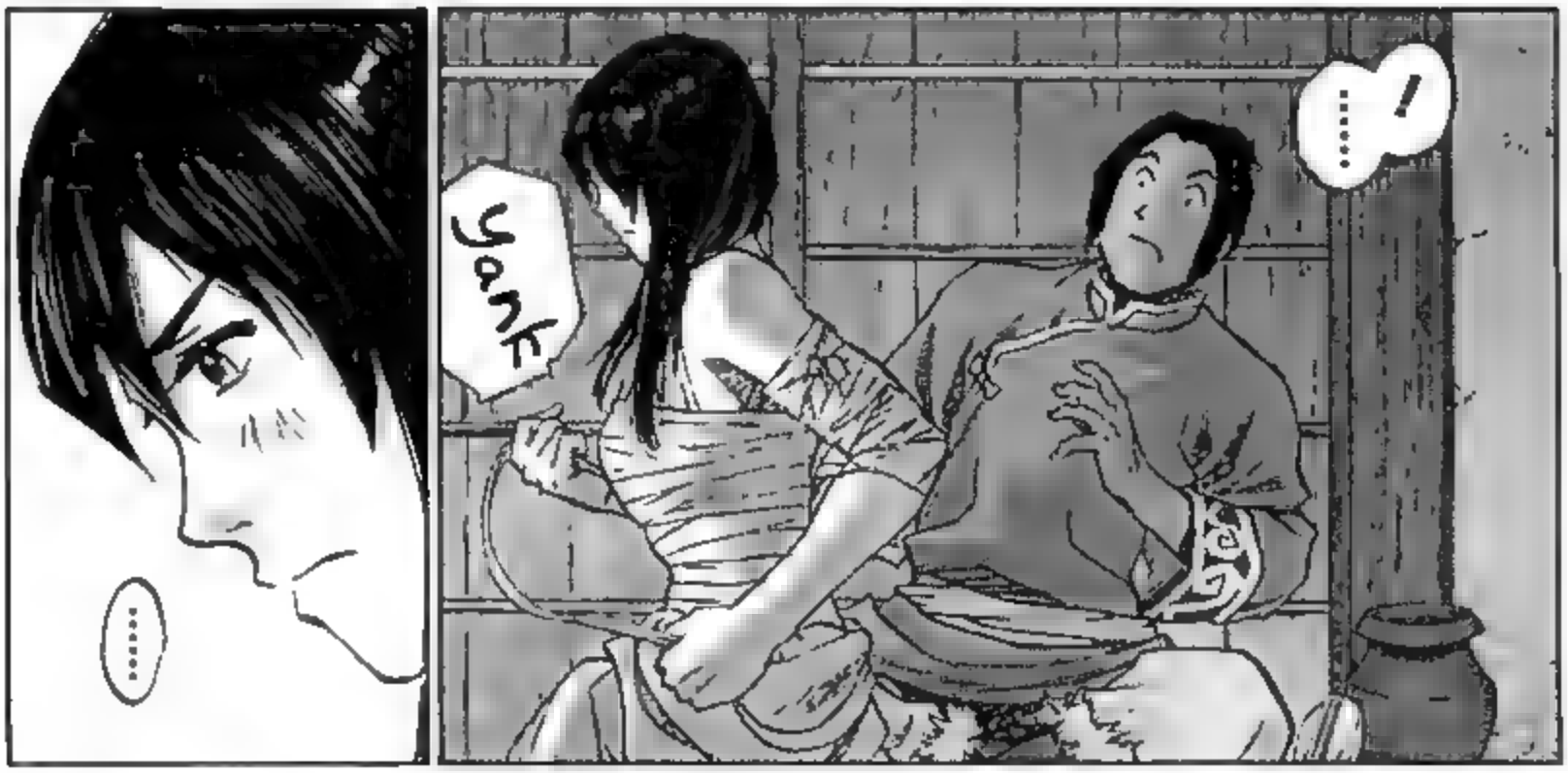
.....

YOU HEAL FAST FOR YOUR AGE...

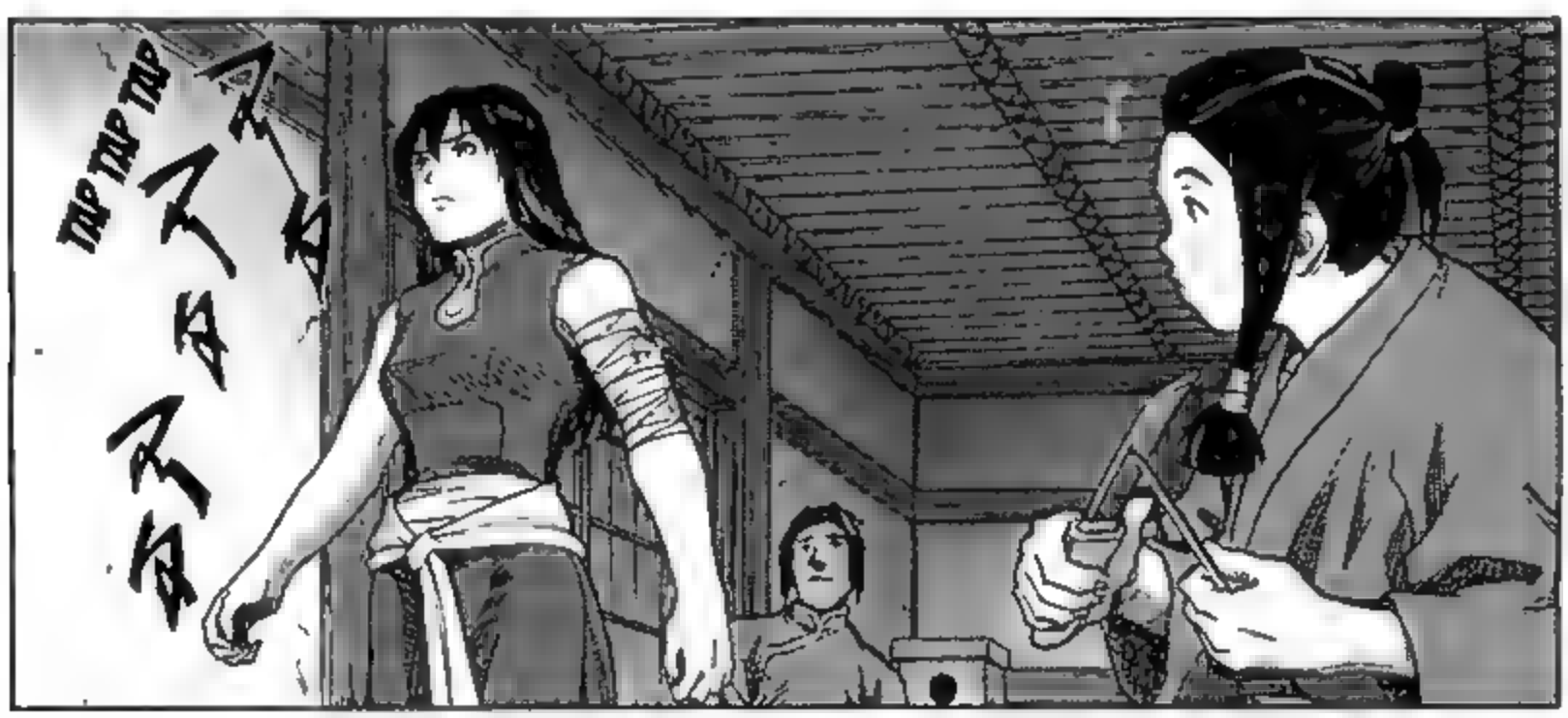
IDIOT!

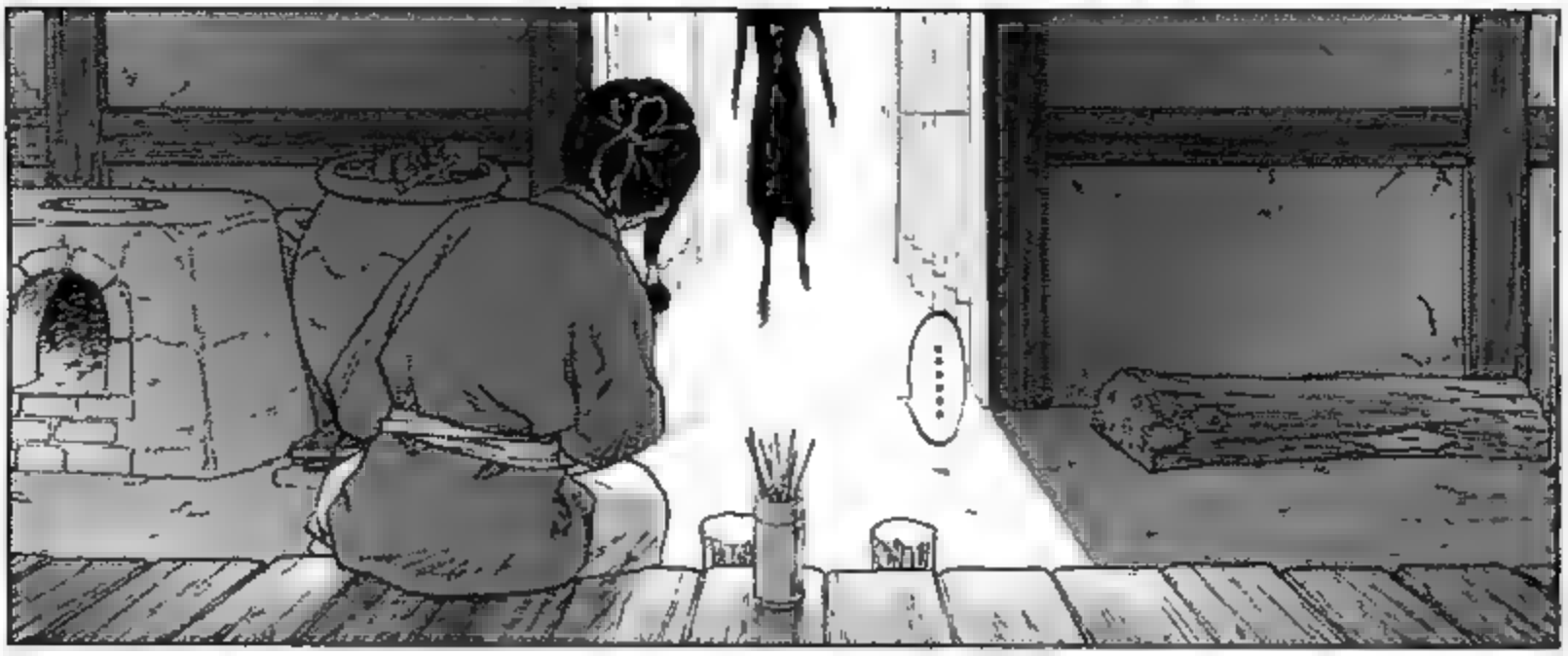
DON'T THINK YOU CAN JUST TOUCH ME LIKE THAT! IT TICKLES.

AH! I REMEMBER THIS ONE. AND THIS ONE, I WAS THE ONE WHO SEWED THIS UP TOO.


……!
yank
……

……
FWIP!
TUG


TAP TAP TAP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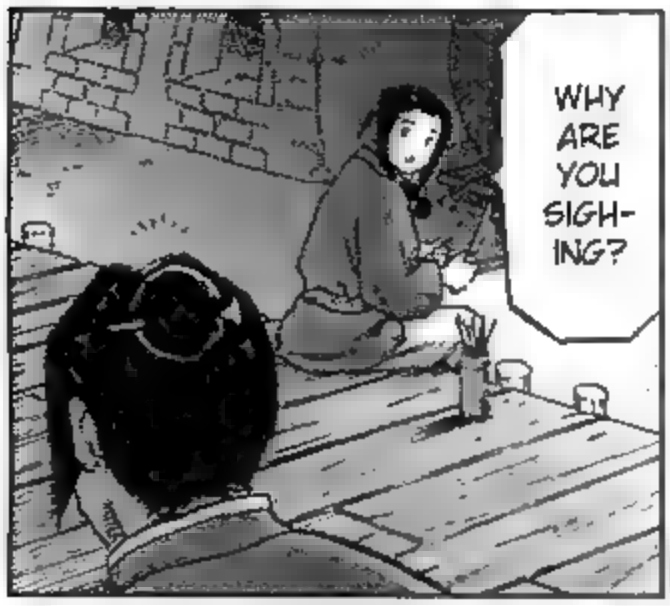
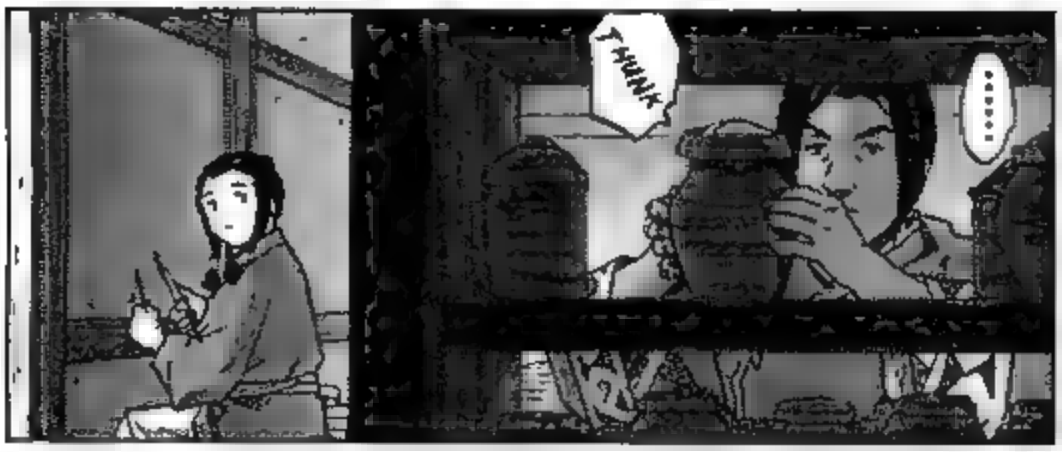

WHY ARE YOU SIGH-ING?

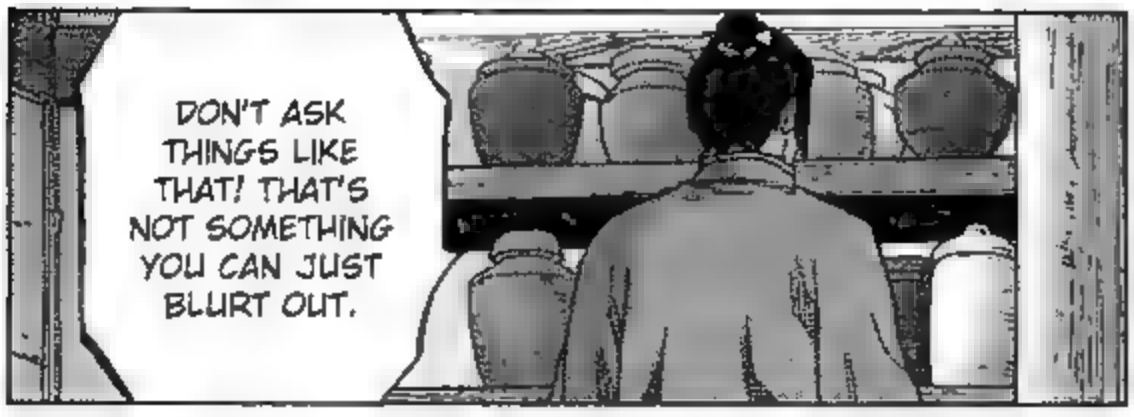
Haaa...


THUNK
.....

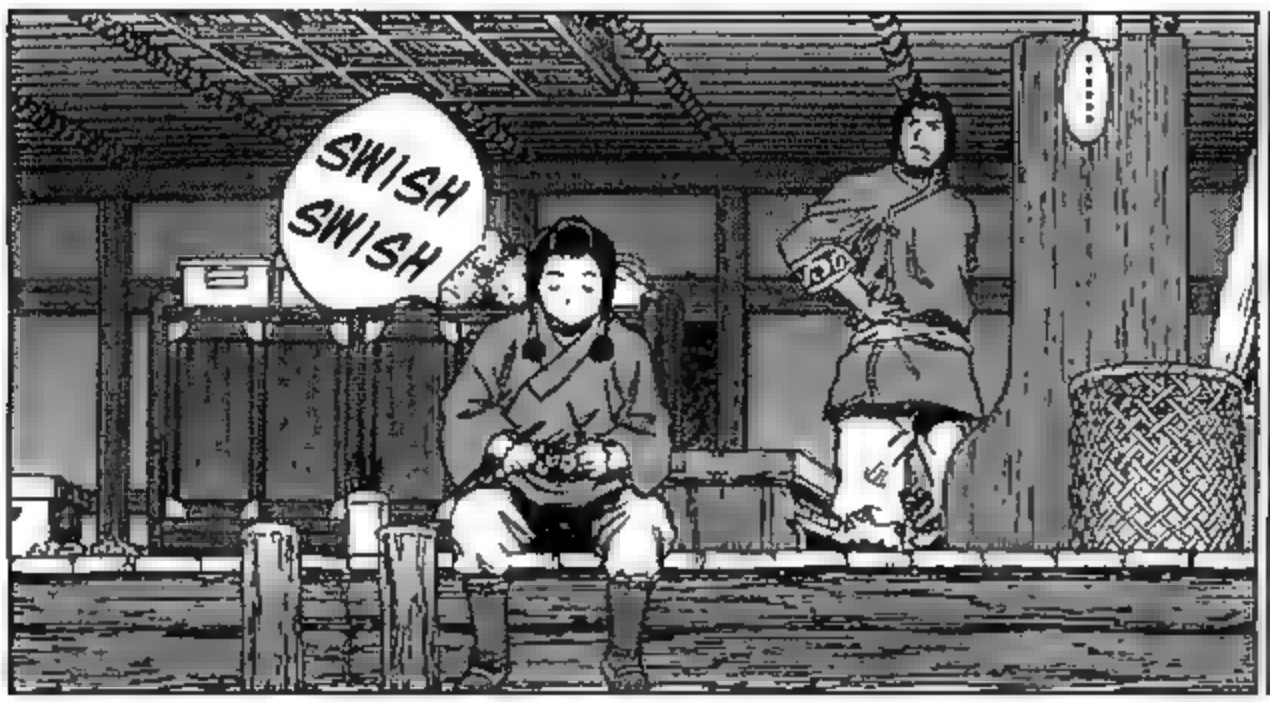
IF I DON'T WATCH WHERE MY HANDS ARE THEY'RE GONNA GET CUT OFF!
TAP

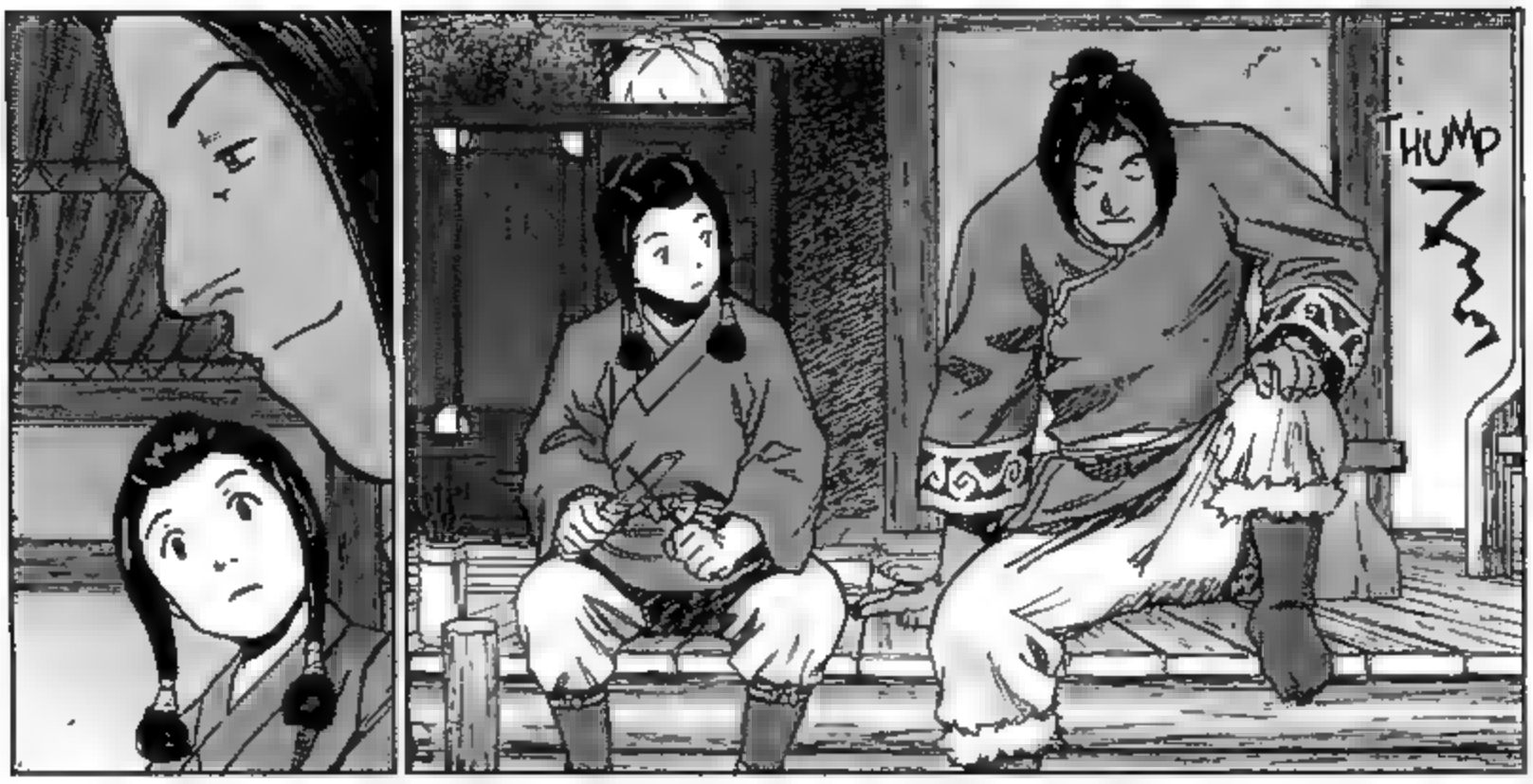
HM?
TANDA...

WHY AREN'T YOU MARRIED TO BALSA? YOU GET ALONG SO WELL...


DON'T ASK THINGS LIKE THAT! THAT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN JUST BLURT OUT.

BUT...
DON'T ASK! AND ESPECIALLY NOT IN FRONT OF BALSA! PLEASE...


SWISH SWISH


THUMP

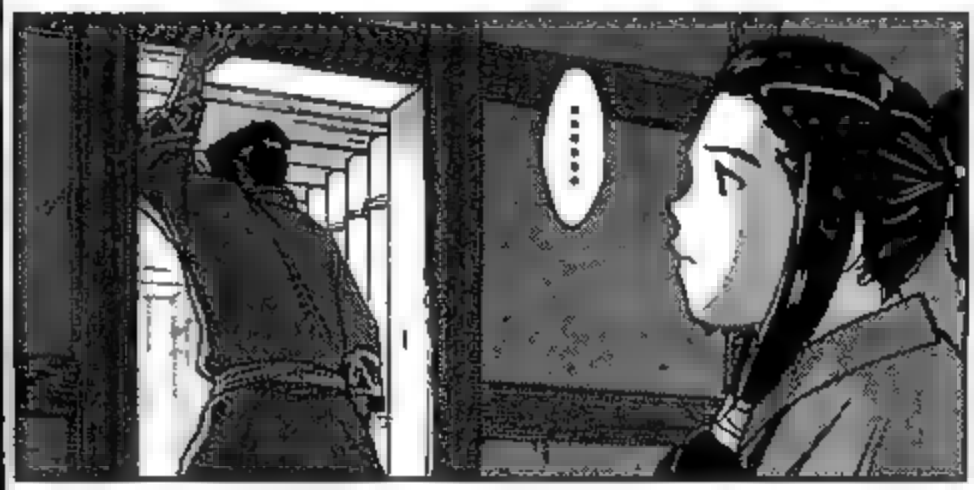
AND PART OF THAT IS BECOMING YOUR BODYGUARD AND PROTECTING YOU WITH HER LIFE.
BALSA IS ALREADY DEAD SET ON SOMETHING ELSE.

SHE IS DEAD SET ON... WHAT?
UNTIL THAT'S OVER, SHE WILL NEVER BE SOMEONE'S WIFE...

WHY?
TO PUT IT SIMPLY, SHE HAS SWORN TO SAVE 8 LIVES.

IT'S NOT SOMETHING FOR ME TO TELL. YOU SHOULD ASK BALSA ONE OF THESE DAYS. YOU'RE SMART, YOU WILL KNOW WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT TO ASK.

TRY TO BROACH THE TOPIC WHEN SHE'S IN THE MOOD TO REMINISCE ABOUT HER PAST...


.....

FWIP

THUMP

WHOOSH
PAH! PAH

OWW!

.....

OF COURSE IT DOES.

IT STILL HURTS QUITE A BIT...

YOU'RE GOING TO ASK ABOUT THE NYUNGA RO IM?

HEY, I'M GOING TO MOUNT YASHIRO FOR A BIT. WHAT ABOUT YOU?

DO YOU WANT TO TAKE CHAGUM AND GO WITH ME?

I WAS LOOKING AROUND FOR ANYONE THAT MIGHT BE RELATED TO THE FRIEND OF MY GREAT GREAT GRANDFATHER I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT, AND I ENDED UP WITH A LEAD IN YASHIRO VILLAGE.

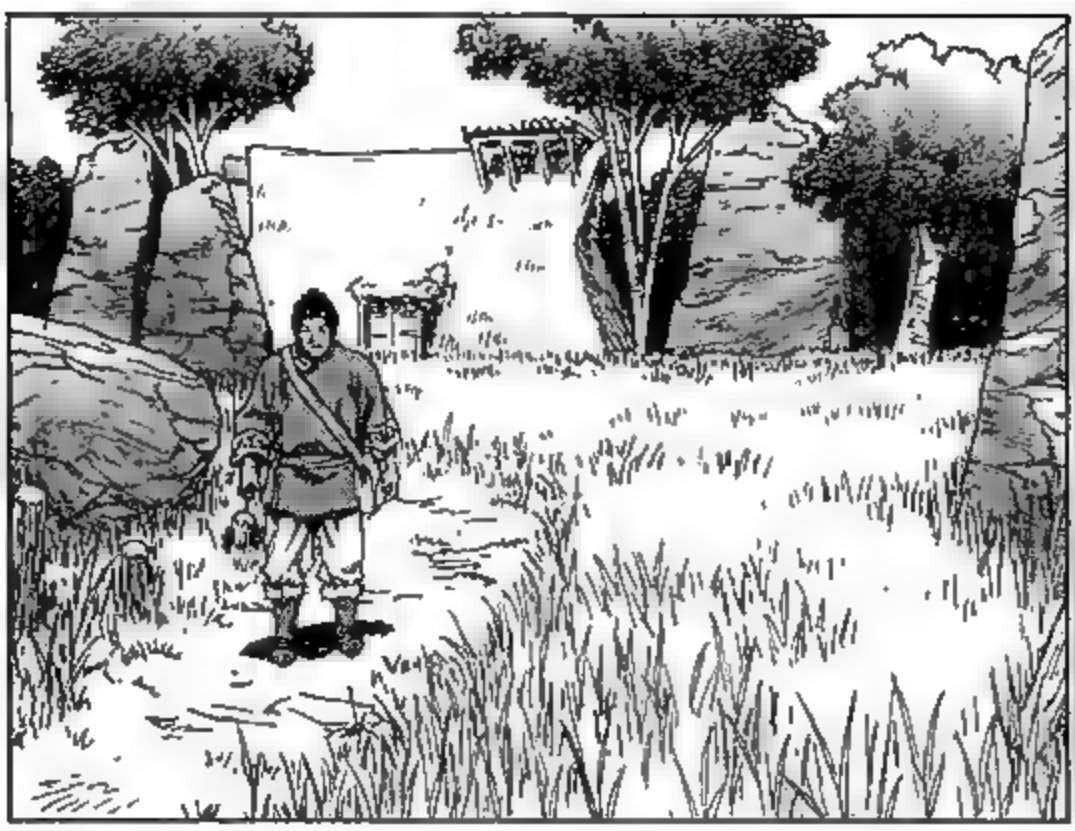
YEAH ...

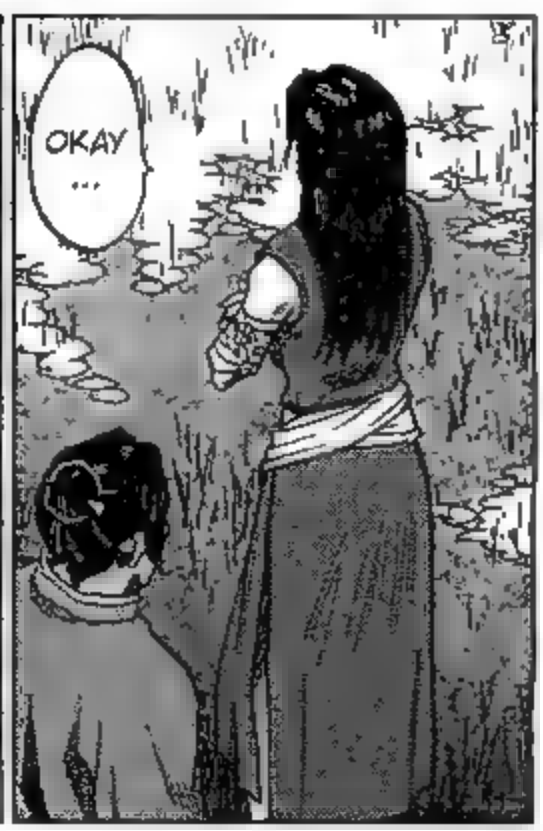
AND I'M EVEN MORE WORRIED WHEN HE'S ALONE. I'M THINKING OF TEACHING HIM SOME MARTIAL ARTS.

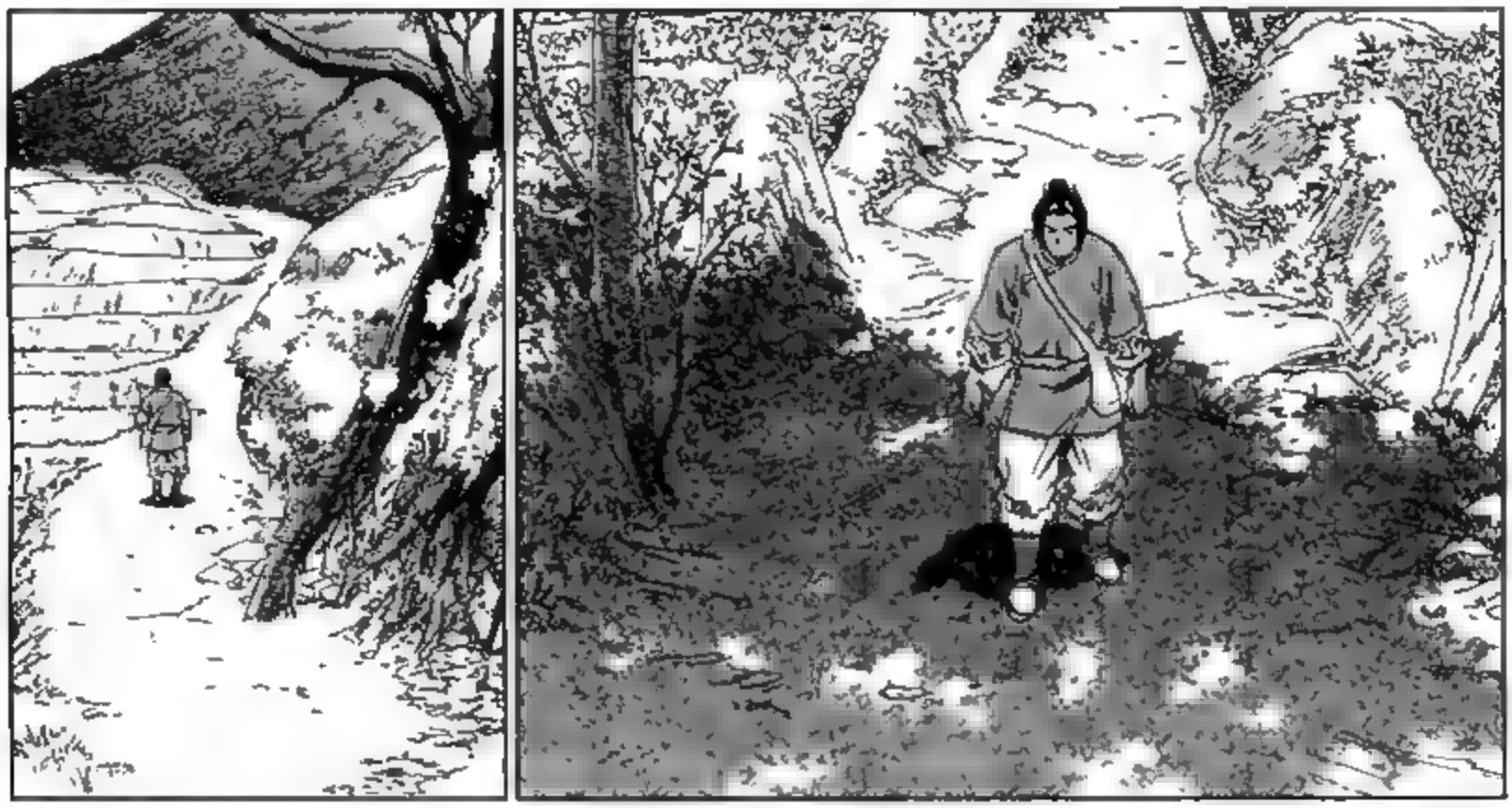
NO... I'LL STAY HERE. I'M STILL WORRIED ABOUT HAVING CHAGUM OUT AND ABOUT IN PUBLIC LIKE THAT.

SO THAT HE CAN DEFEND HIMSELF ON THE OFF CHANCE THAT HE FINDS HIMSELF ALONE.

IF I'M NOT BACK BY TONIGHT, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
OKAY, JUST TAKE SOME FOOD FROM MY STORAGE, THEN.

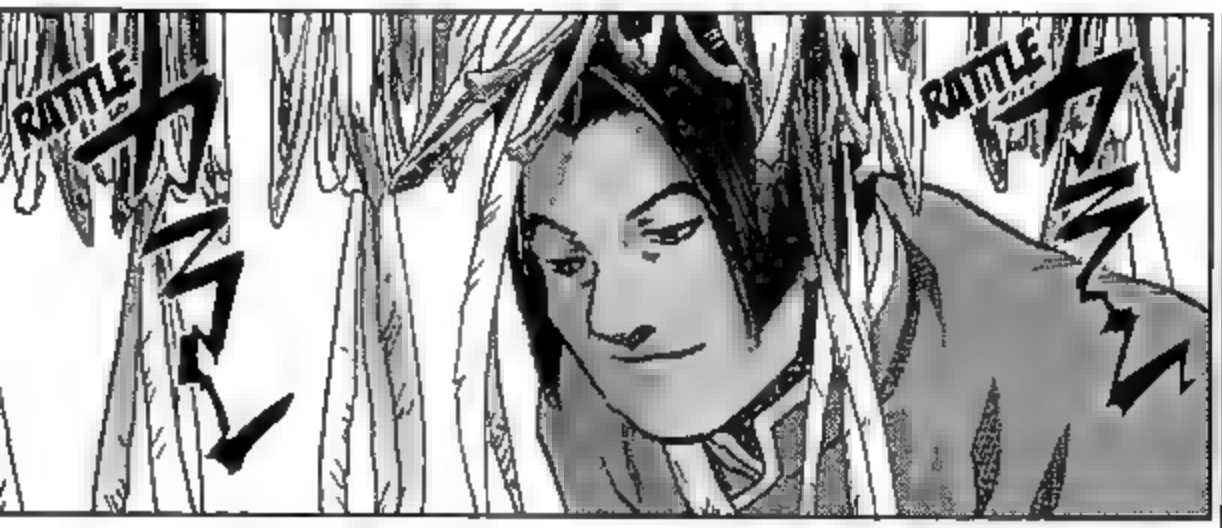



OKAY ...



I SHOULD BE NEAR-ING THE OUTSKIRTS NOW...

LOOK AT THAT ...
A ROPE MARKER ...


RUTTLE
RUTTLE

AS IS TRADI-TION...

I WONDER WHY THEY'RE NAJI BONES...

GRAMPA, I WANNA RING IT TOO!

UMF!

OKAY, I KNOW, I KNOW.

FLY, FLY NAJI! IF YOU REACH THE SEA THE RAIN WILL FALL AND THE RICE FIELDS WILL GROW!

THE NAJI'S WINGS ARE FASTER THAN MAGIC, AND FASTER THAN ANY CALAMITY.

AH, THAT'S RIGHT!

IT REFERS TO THE SONG OF THE MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL. I HOPE THEY HAVE A GOOD HARVEST THIS YEAR....

HI NINA. DID YOU GO TO THE RIVER TO WASH YOUR POTATOES?

AH! MISTER MEDICINE MAN!

YEP!

!

!

TAP TAP

FWIP

GRAMPA, WE HAVE A GUEST!

IT'S BEEN A WHILE! COME IN, COME IN...

WELL IF IT ISN'T TANDA!

I'M SORRY FOR INTRUDING, NOUYA-SAN.

NYUNGA RO CHAGA?

HMM ...

YES ...

I DIDN'T LIKE THE STORY EITHER... WHICH IS WHY I DON'T KNOW IT WELL.

MY FATHER'S BROTHER CERTAINLY WAS THE GUARDIAN OF THE EGG. MY GRANDMOTHER DESCENDED INTO SADNESS EVERY TIME SHE REMEMBERED WHAT HAPPENED.

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME... THAT WAS A HUNDRED YEARS AGO...

IF YOU ASKED THIS LAST YEAR, WHEN MY MOTHER WAS ALIVE, YOU WOULD HAVE GOTTEN MORE ANSWERS. SHE WAS THE TOWN'S STORYKEEPER... SHE WOULD HAVE KNOWN MORE ABOUT THAT WATER SPIRIT.

THAT'S TERRIBLE! THAT MEANS THIS IS THE YEAR THAT ANOTHER EGG WILL APPEAR!

GRAMPA! SO IT'S BEEN A HUNDRED YEARS SINCE THE NYUNGA RO CHAGA WAS KILLED?

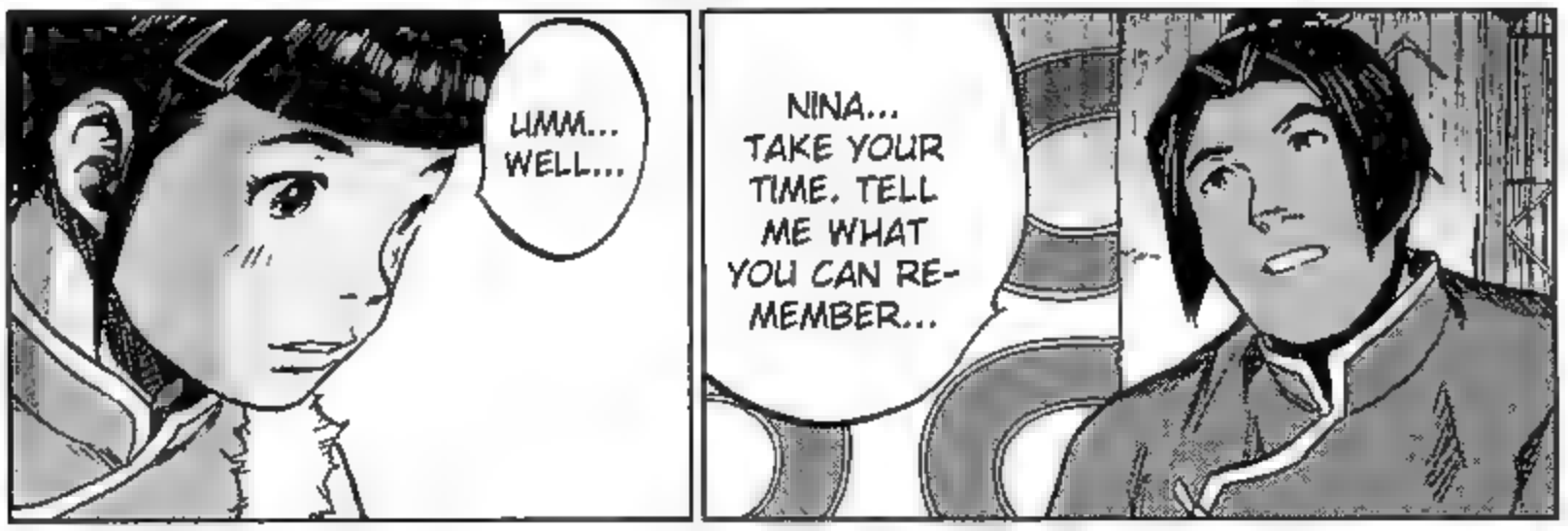
YOU SEEM TO KNOW A LOT ABOUT IT, NINA... HOW?

!!

MY GREAT GRANDMOTHER TOLD ME THAT SCARY STORY.

SHE SPENT A LOT OF TIME WITH MY MOTHER BEFORE SHE PASSED AWAY LAST YEAR. SHE MIGHT HAVE HEARD THE STORY ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

PAT



THE NYUNGA RO IM HATCHED FROM AN EGG IN A SEA IN SAGU. AS IT GROWS, IT CROSSES OVER TO NAYUG AND LIVES IN THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER THERE...

MY GREAT GRANDMOTHER TOLD ME IT LOOKED LIKE A HUGE SHELLFISH...

BUT AS IT GROWS INTO AN ADULT... IT STOPS BEING ABLE TO MOVE.

BUT THEN, AFTER A HUNDRED YEARS, THE NYUNGA RO IM LAYS ITS EGG AND DIES.

THE ENERGY THAT IT BREATHES OUT TURNS INTO THE CLOUDS THAT CAUSE THE RAIN TO FALL.

THE CLOUDS GRADUALLY DISAPPEAR AFTER THE NYUNGA RO IM DIES. BUT THE SUN REMAINS SHINING ON THE LAND.

THIS IS WHY THE YAKU HAVE DECIDED TO PROTECT THE EGG. TO MAKE SURE THAT THE NYUNGA RO IM IS BORN... TO HAVE THE CLOUDS RISE AGAIN... THIS IS HOW THE GUARDIAN OF THE SPIRIT CAME TO BE.

.....

LONG LONG AGO, WHEN THE PEOPLE OF SAGU AND NAYUG GOT ALONG WELL, THAT WAS HOW THINGS WERE

BUT... JUST LIKE A SNAKE EATS A BIRD'S EGG.. THE LA LUNGA CHASES AFTER THE NYUNGA RO IM SO FIERCELY THAT IT EVEN CROSSES INTO SAGU...

...HEY, NOW THAT A HUNDRED YEARS HAVE PASSED...

MY GREAT GRANDFATHER'S FATHER'S OLDER BROTHER WAS TORN RIGHT IN HALF BY THE LA LUNGA'S CLAWS!!

WILL THE LA LUNGA REMEMBER HOW THE NYUNGA RO CHAGA TASTED... AND COME HERE TO EAT US?!

WHEW

IT'S GOING TO BE FINE... THE EGGS OF THE NYUNGA RO IM ARE THE ONLY THING THAT THE LA LUNGA EATS...

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET EATEN, SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT...

BUT NINA ...

ABOUT THAT LA LUNGA...

.....

UM.. WELL...

WHAT KIND OF CREATURE IS IT? DID YOUR GREAT GRAND-MOTHER TELL YOU?

THEY WEREN'T ABLE TO SEE IT FOR THE *LOOOONGEST* TIME... BUT IT SUDDENLY APPEARED WHEN IT TORE APART THE NYUNGA RO CHAGA.

SHE TOLD ME THAT HER FATHER SAW IT...

SHIVER

SHE TOLD ME THAT HER FATHER REMEMBERED ITS HUGE CLAWS GLOWING...

IT REALLY IS A CREATURE OF NAYUG. THE LA LUNGA DIDN'T COME FROM THE EMPEROR'S HUNTERS...

.....

THAT'S WHAT I ALSO WANTED TO KNOW...

DID SHE TELL YOU WHAT ITS WEAKNESS IS?

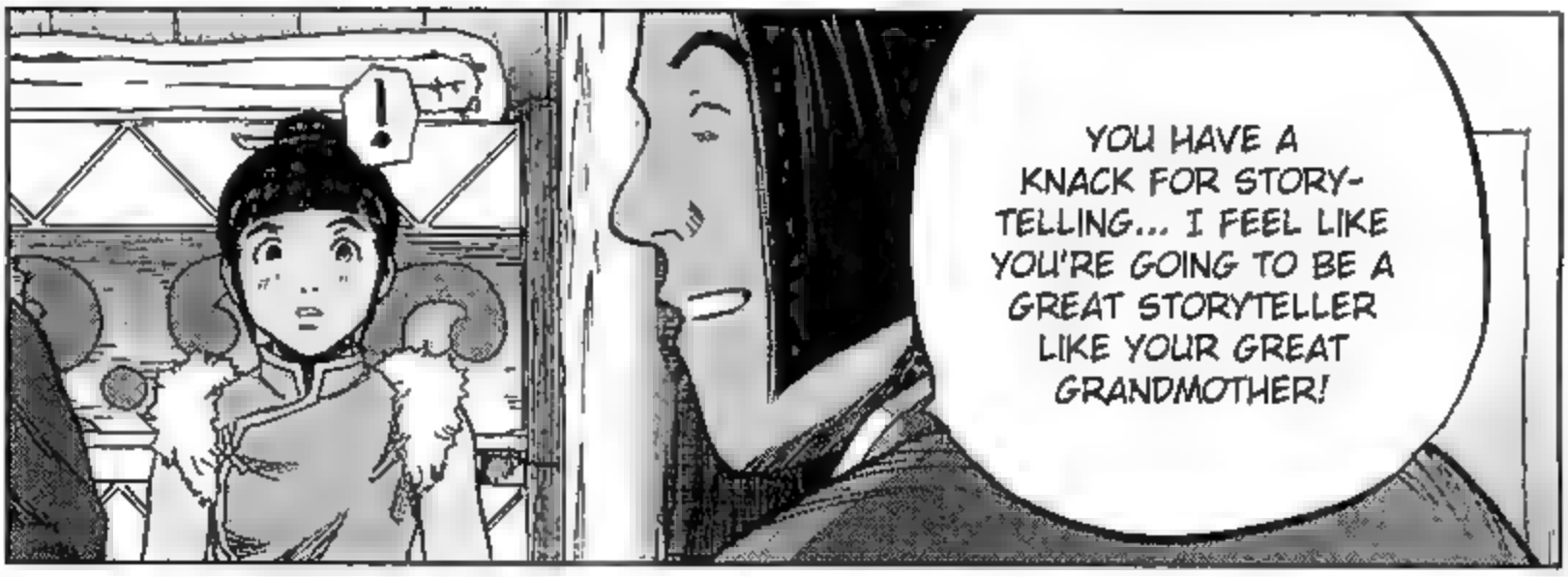
NO...

.....

THAT'S TRUE...

BUT SHE TOLD ME THAT IF THEY KNEW THAT, THEY WOULD HAVE TOLD EVERYONE ALREADY, AND THE CHILD WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN KILLED.

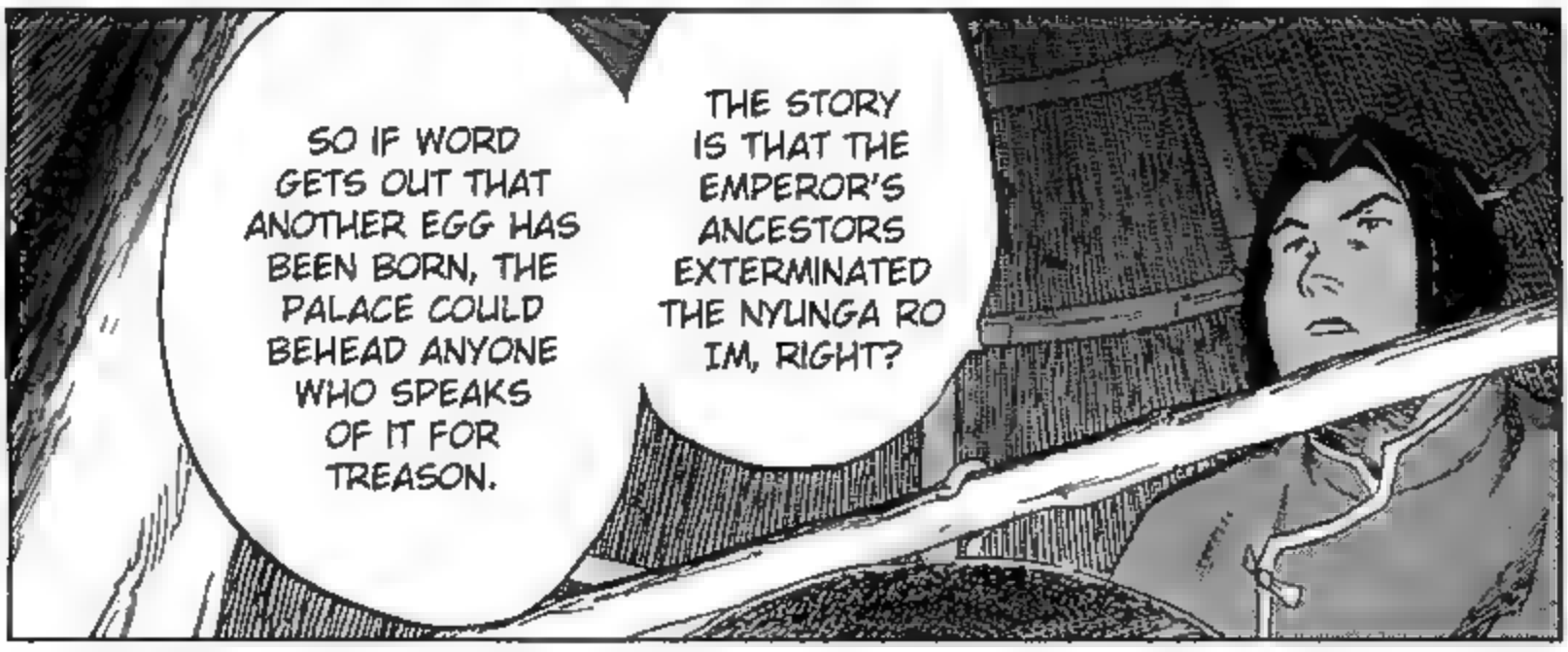
YOU'VE REALLY HELPED ME OUT!
OH NO, THANK YOU!


!
YOU HAVE A KNACK FOR STORY-TELLING... I FEEL LIKE YOU'RE GOING TO BE A GREAT STORYTELLER LIKE YOUR GREAT GRANDMOTHER!

TANDA... WHY ARE YOU ASKING THESE QUESTIONS NOW...?

IT'S JUST AS YOU'VE GUESSED. IT LOOKS LIKE THE NYUNGA RO IM HAS LAID ITS EGG... AND I WANT TO PROTECT IT.

WHY?
BUT I AM ASKING YOU... PLEASE DO NOT TELL OF THIS TO ANYONE.


SO IF WORD GETS OUT THAT ANOTHER EGG HAS BEEN BORN, THE PALACE COULD BEHEAD ANYONE WHO SPEAKS OF IT FOR TREASON.
THE STORY IS THAT THE EMPEROR'S ANCESTORS EXTERMINATED THE NYUNGA RO IM, RIGHT?

!!

OKAY?

YOU TOO, NINA!

OF COURSE!

TANDA, YOU MUST ALSO SWEAR NEVER TO TELL THIS TO ANYONE. DO NOT TELL OUR STORY TO THE OFFICIALS...

!

I'LL BE OFF...

I'M SORRY TO BRING EVERYONE'S SPIRITS DOWN...

I HEARD THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT YOUR WIFE. THIS SHOULD HELP WITH THE MORNING SICKNESS.

AH, I ALMOST FORGOT... IT'S NOT MUCH, BUT HERE ARE SOME HERBS.

WELL THEN...

THANK YOU.

AH...

?

TANDA-SAN! THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE I REMEMBERED!

THAT THE LA LUNGA NEVER COMES DURING WINTER!

GREAT GRAND-MA TOLD ME...

!

IT'S MOST LIKELY HIBERNATING... JUST LIKE THE MOUNTAIN CREATURES.

THAT'S RIGHT... MY FATHER'S OLDER BROTHER WAS KILLED DURING THE SUMMER SOLSTICE. MY GRANDMOTHER GRIEVED GREATLY... IF ONLY THE WINTER WOULD LAST FOREVER, SHE SAID...

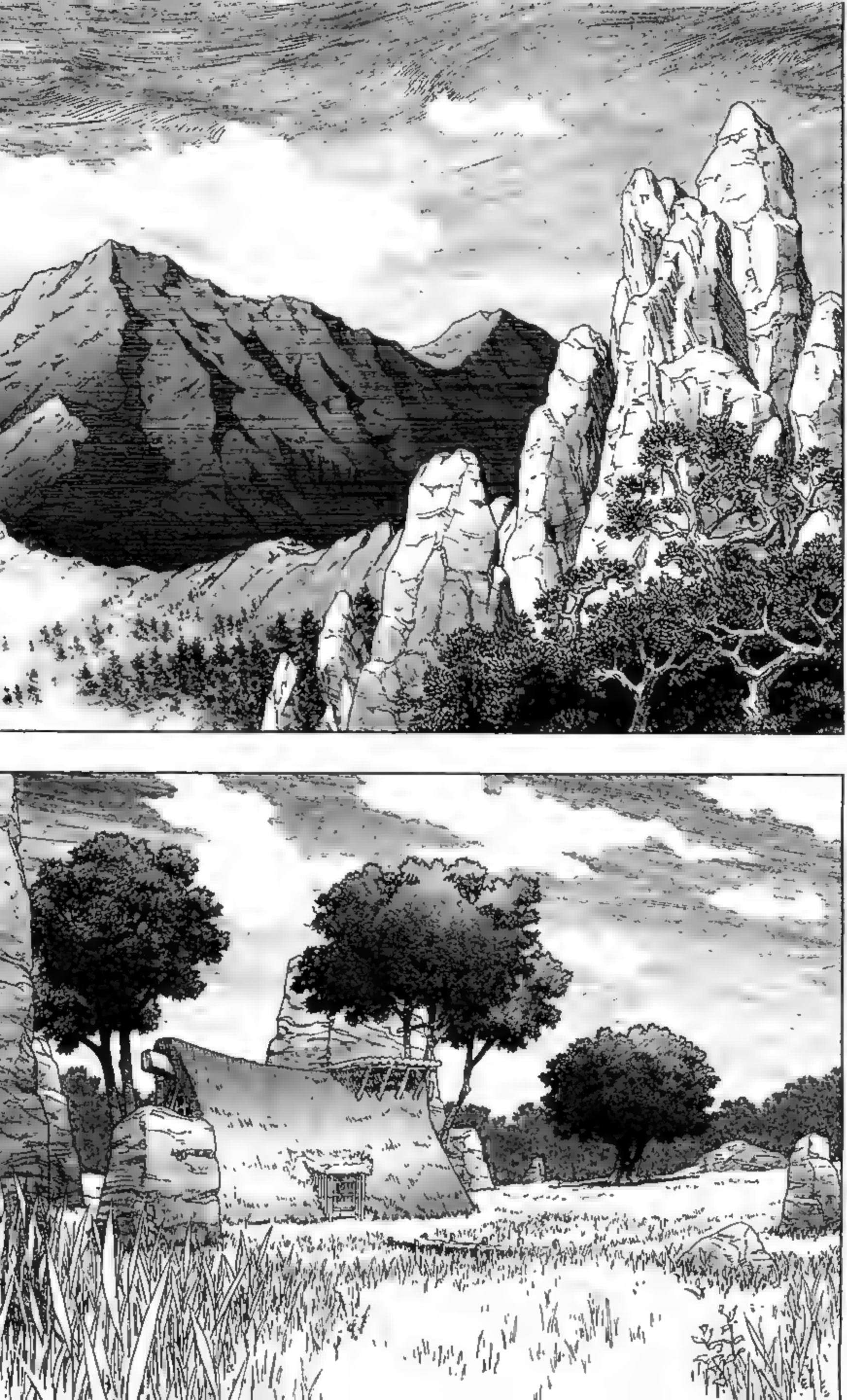
HEHE ...

YOU REMEM-BERED WELL, NINA! THAT WAS VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

IT'S SNOW-ING?!
AH...

!

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT I'M GLAD TO SEE SIGNS OF WINTER...



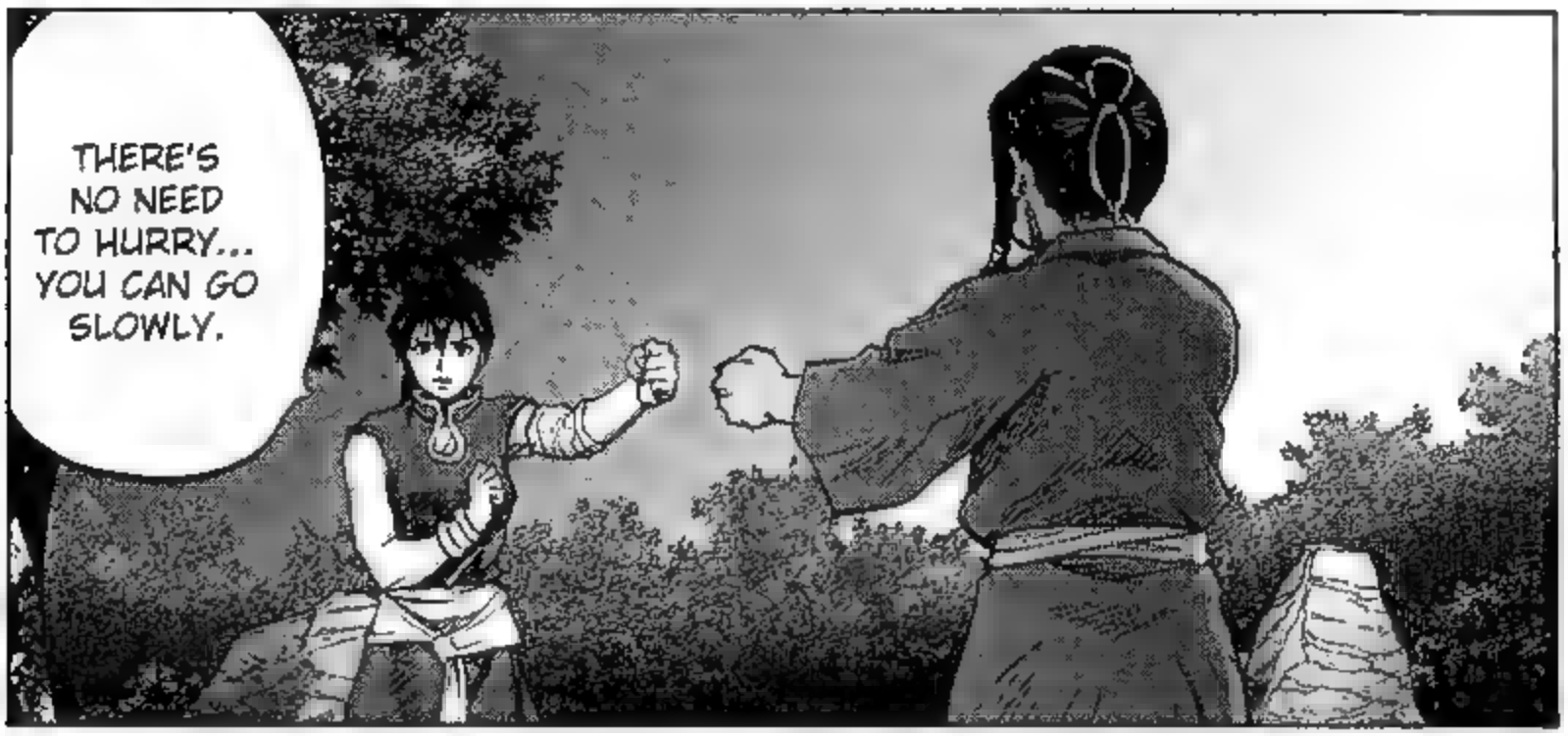
DOES IT HURT?

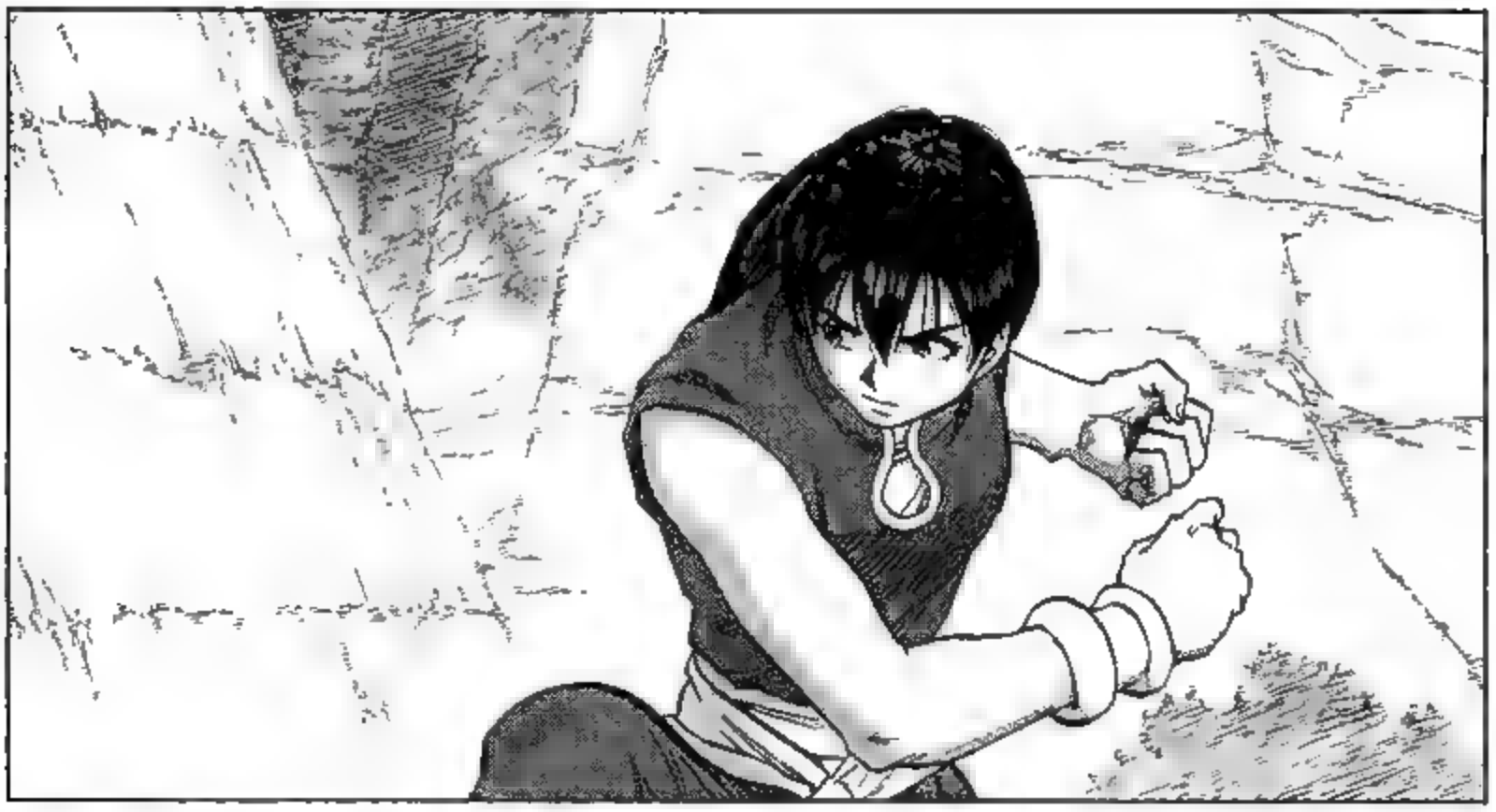
BREATHE SLOWLY, TIME IT WITH YOUR MOVEMENTS.

Huff Huff

Huff Huff

INHALE


THERE'S NO NEED TO HURRY... YOU CAN GO SLOWLY.



!

Thp Thp

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE EVER EXERTED YOURSELF, ISN'T IT...

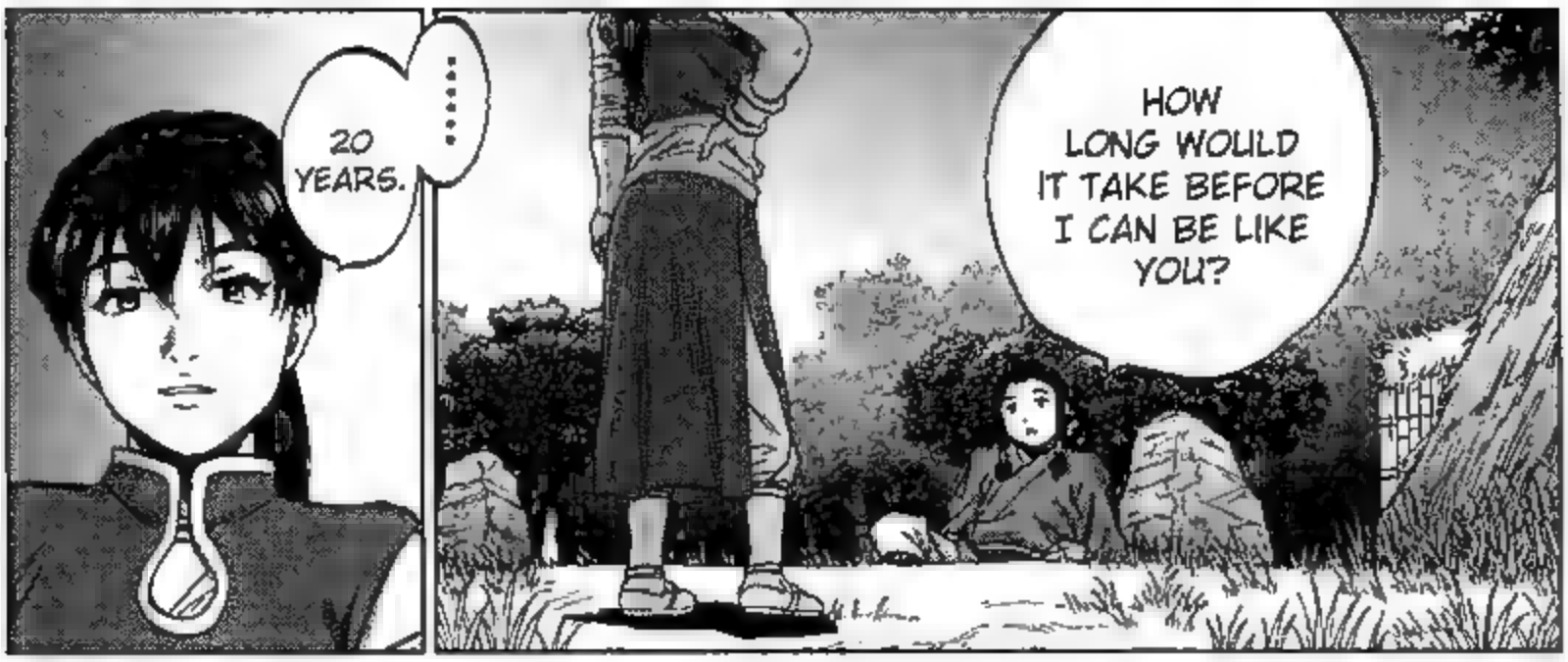
HMMM ...

THUD

Huff Huff

YOUR BONES ARE STILL GROWING SINCE YOU'RE STILL YOUNG, SO I WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO OVERDO IT.

BUT I AT LEAST WANT YOU TO BE ABLE TO MOVE A BIT WITHOUT LOSING YOUR BREATH.


20 YEARS.
.....
HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE BEFORE I CAN BE LIKE YOU?

YOU DON'T WANT PEOPLE SUSPECTING WHO YOU ARE AS SOON AS YOU OPEN YOUR MOUTH.

IN WHICH CASE, THERE IS NOT ENOUGH TIME!!
20 YEARS?!

"BUT THEN THERE ISN'T ENOUGH TIME," IS HOW YOU SHOULD PHRASE IT!

IT'S IMPORTANT TO BUILD STRENGTH... BUT I GUESS WE HAVE TO CHANGE THE WAY YOU SPEAK FIRST...

A 10-YEAR-OLD CHILD WITH ONE OR TWO MONTHS OF RUSHED TRAINING WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO MATCH A HUNTER ANYWAY.

AND BESIDES ...

ISN'T THAT WHAT WE'RE DOING?

THEN WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

SIMPLY PUT... IT'S BETTER TO DO THIS THAN TO NOT DO ANYTHING AT ALL. YOU'LL HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF ESCAPING.

OKAY? SOMETIMES IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS THAT SEPARATE LIFE AND DEATH.

SO IF, FOR INSTANCE, YOUR OPPONENT HESITATES FOR EVEN A SECOND, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO ESCAPE.

AND IF YOU CAN DO THAT AND FIND THAT KIND OF OPENING, I'LL HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF SAVING YOU.

RUSTLE

THAT'S WHEN A LITTLE TRAINING WOULD HELP MORE THAN NOTHING AT ALL.

CLANG

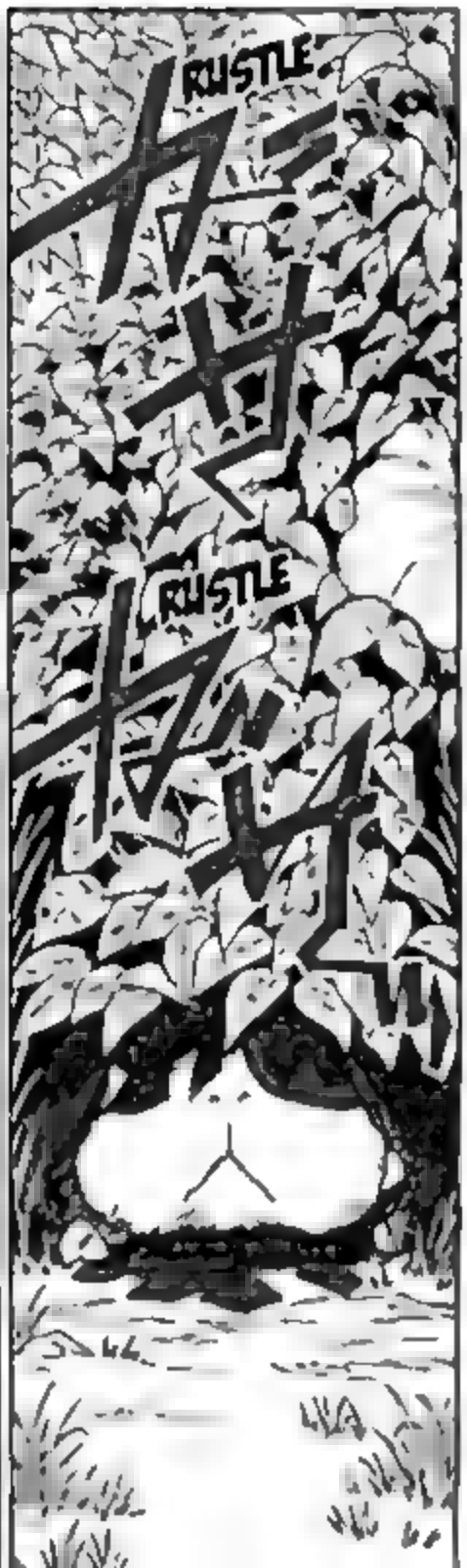
A

THWACK

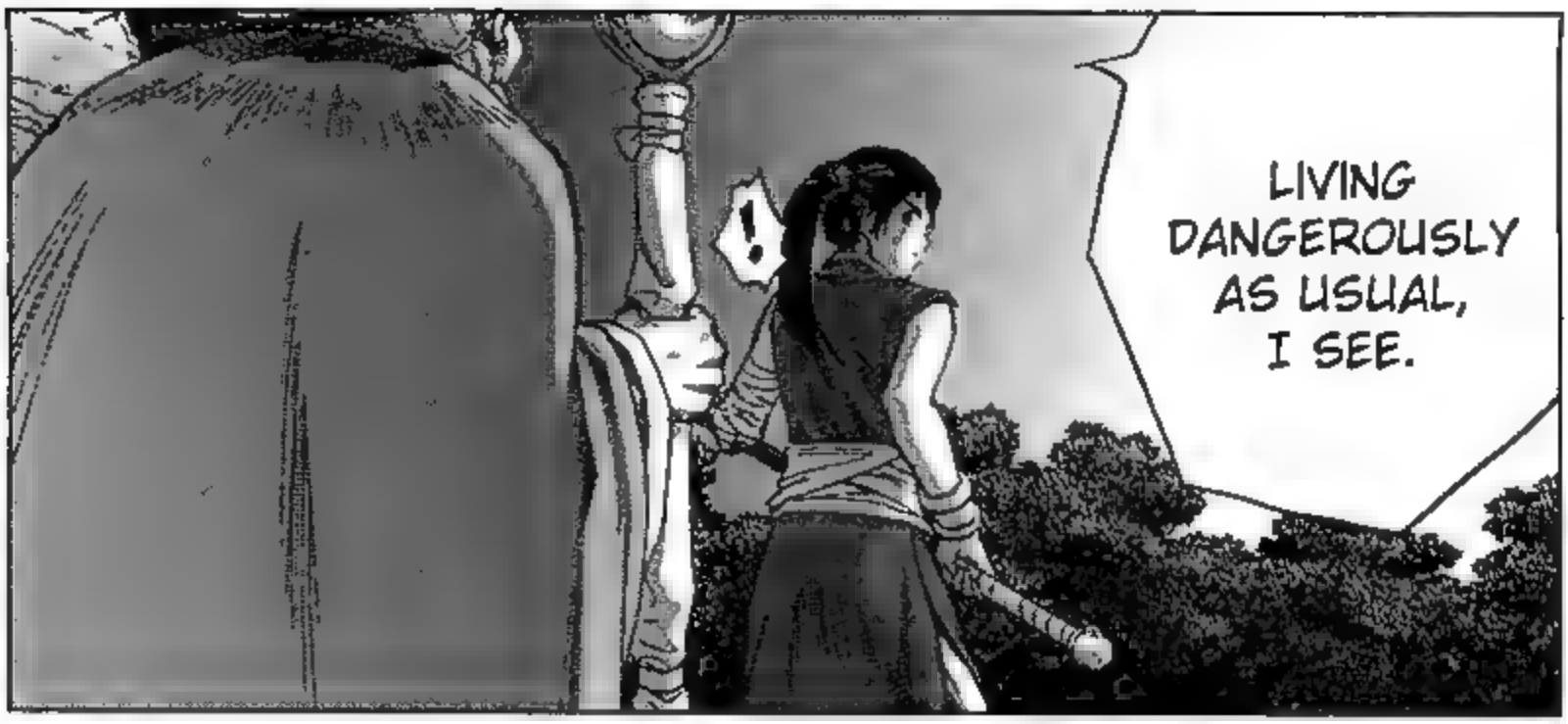
WHO IS IT?!

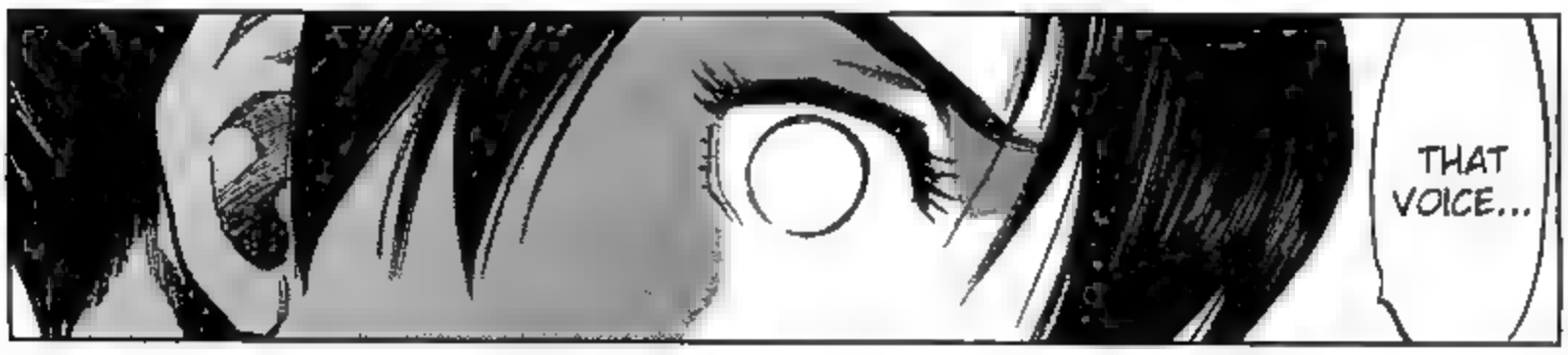
CHAGUM!! GO BACK INSIDE!!

O... OKAY!


RUSTLE
RUSTLE

A RABBIT?


LIVING DANGEROUSLY AS USUAL, I SEE.
!


THAT VOICE...

HA HA HA
I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM YOU IN A WHILE ...
.....

Seirei no Moribito

by Uehashi Nahoko, Futatsugi Saki, & Fujiwara Kamui

Chapter 10

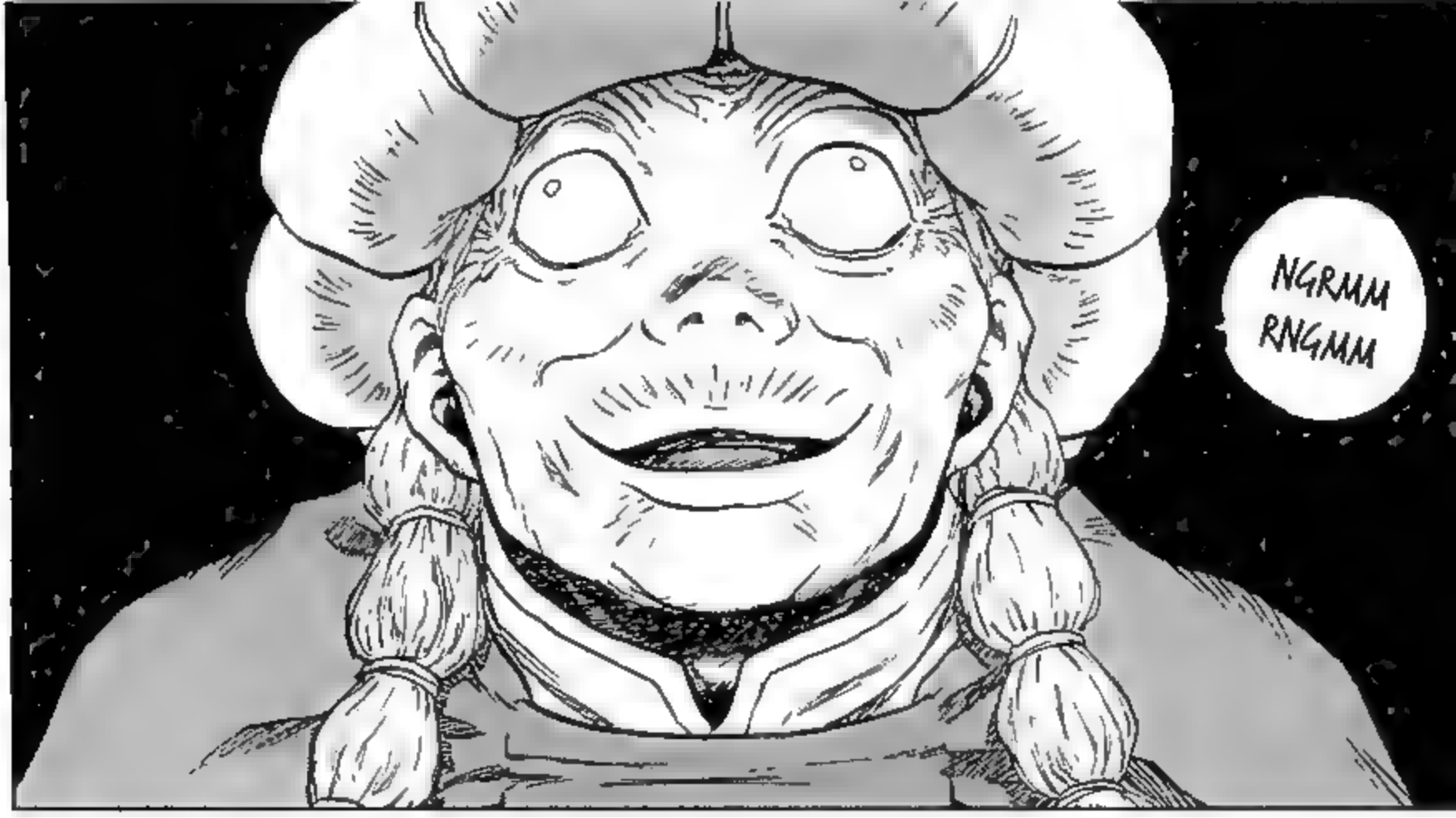
The End

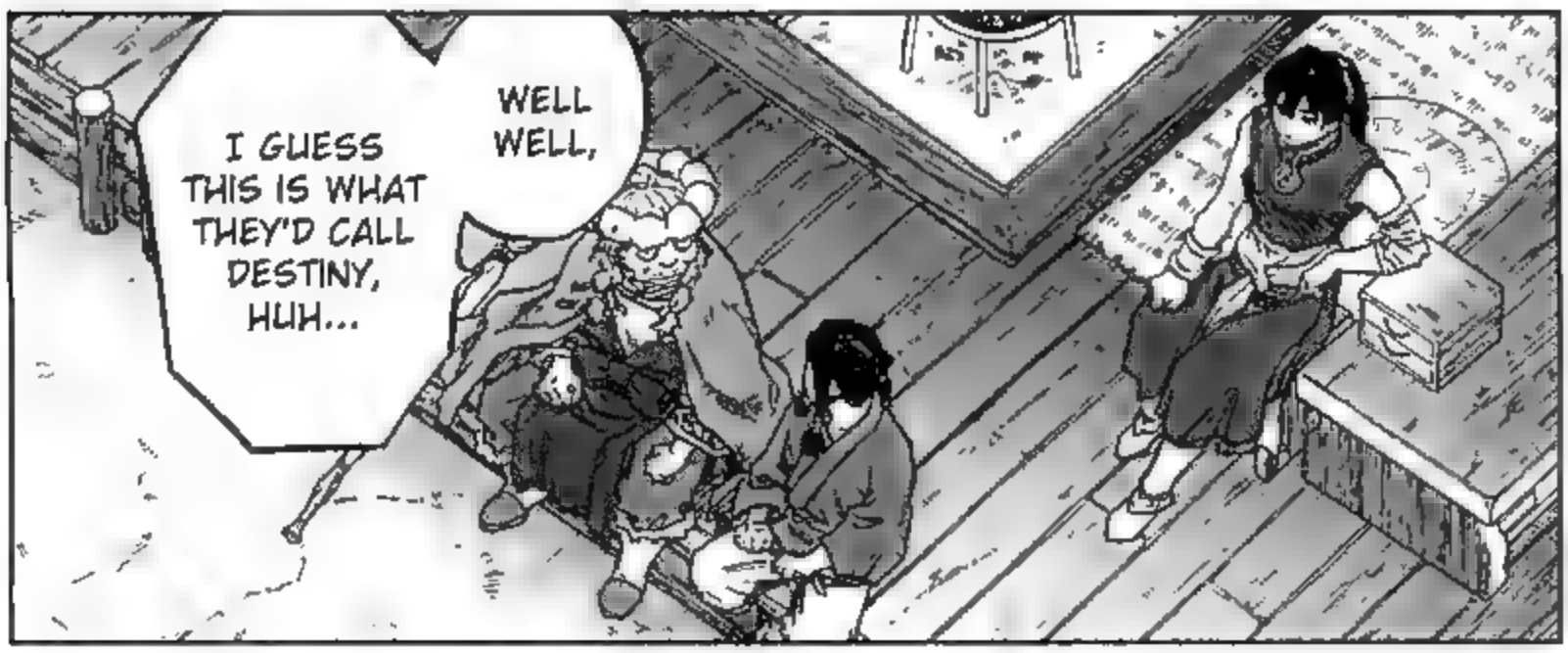
TheEndManga.wordpress.com

Always open to new freelancers
finishing off projects of their choosing!

raws > Ishitori
translator > Den
cleaner > Kit & Jeca
typesetter > Kat
qc > Ishitori

CHAPTER 10: THE REUNION WITH TOROGAI


NGRMM
RNGMM


WELL WELL,
I GUESS THIS IS WHAT THEY'D CALL DESTINY, HUH...

YES... IT'S JUST AS YOU'VE GUESSED.
WERE YOU ASKED BY THE SECOND EMPRESS TO DO THIS?

MASTER TOROGAI, I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR YOU! IF THIS REALLY IS DESTINY...

I SEE...

THEN THIS IS ONE OF THOSE RARE TIMES I WOULD ACTUALLY BE THANKING FATE.

!

FLINCH

LET'S SEE!

YOU JUST SAVED ME A LOT OF TROUBLE!

ME TOO!

I'M NOT GOING TO TAKE ANY-THING... JUST SIT STILL...

WHIP

.....

GNAAOO!

©LATTER

CLATTER

!!

THUMP

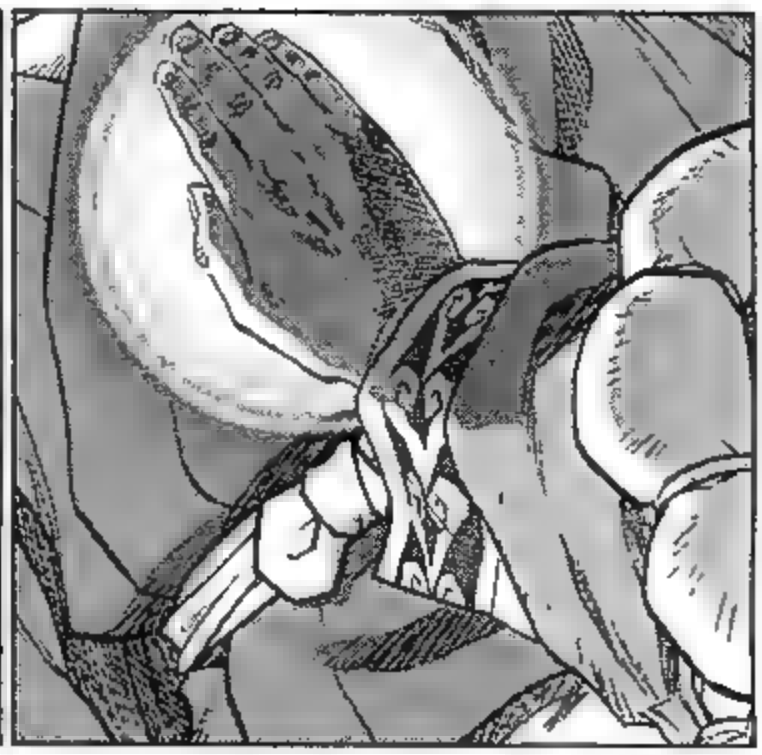
WHA?!

OHHH...

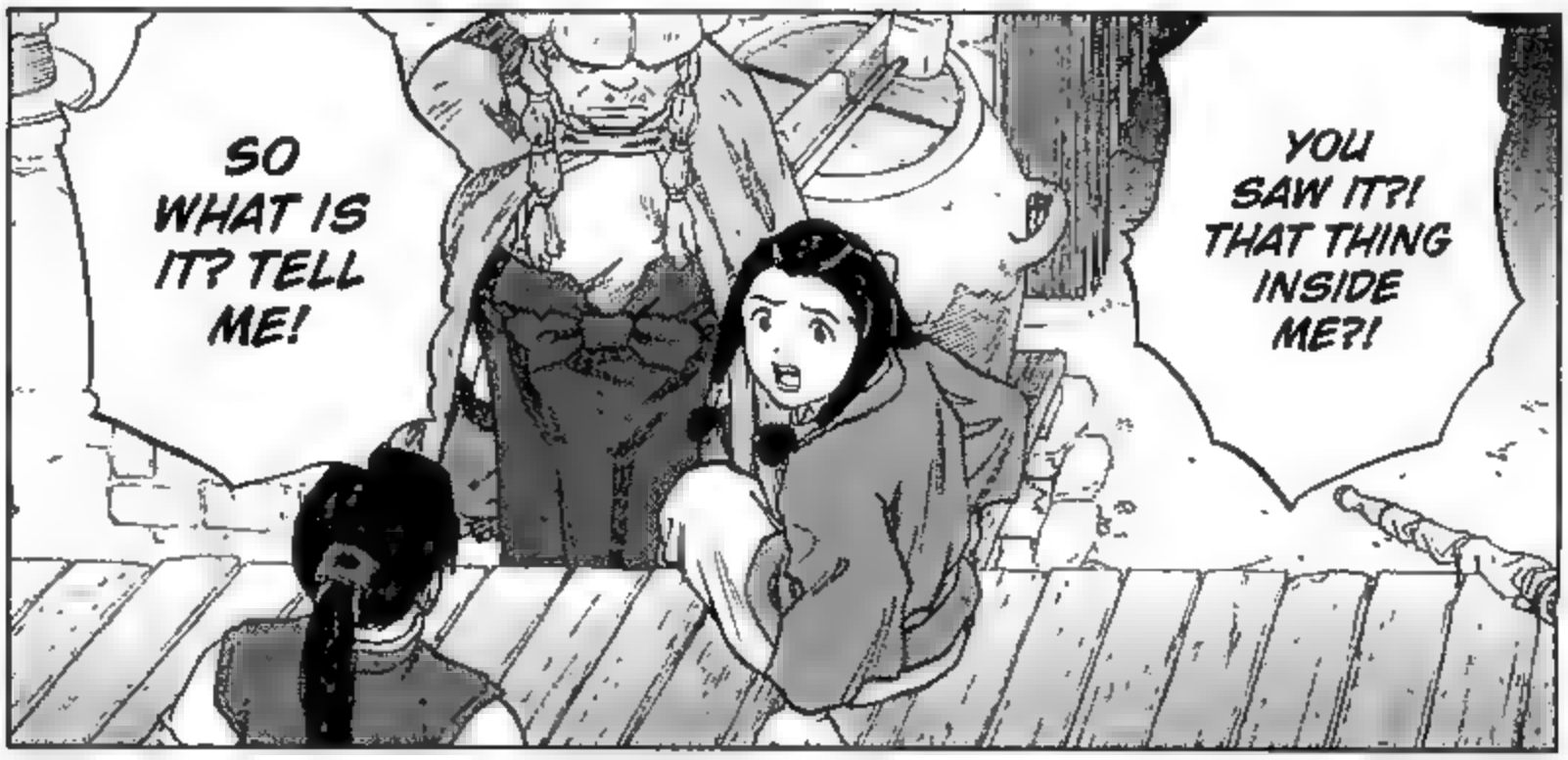
.....

AFTER LIVING FOR SO LONG... THIS COULD BE THE DAY THAT I FINALLY SEE THE NYUNGA RO IM'S EGG...

WHRR



!
FWIP
THE NYUNGA RO IM'S EGG... THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN IT...


SO WHAT IS IT? TELL ME!
YOU SAW IT?! THAT THING INSIDE ME?!

HAHA-HA!

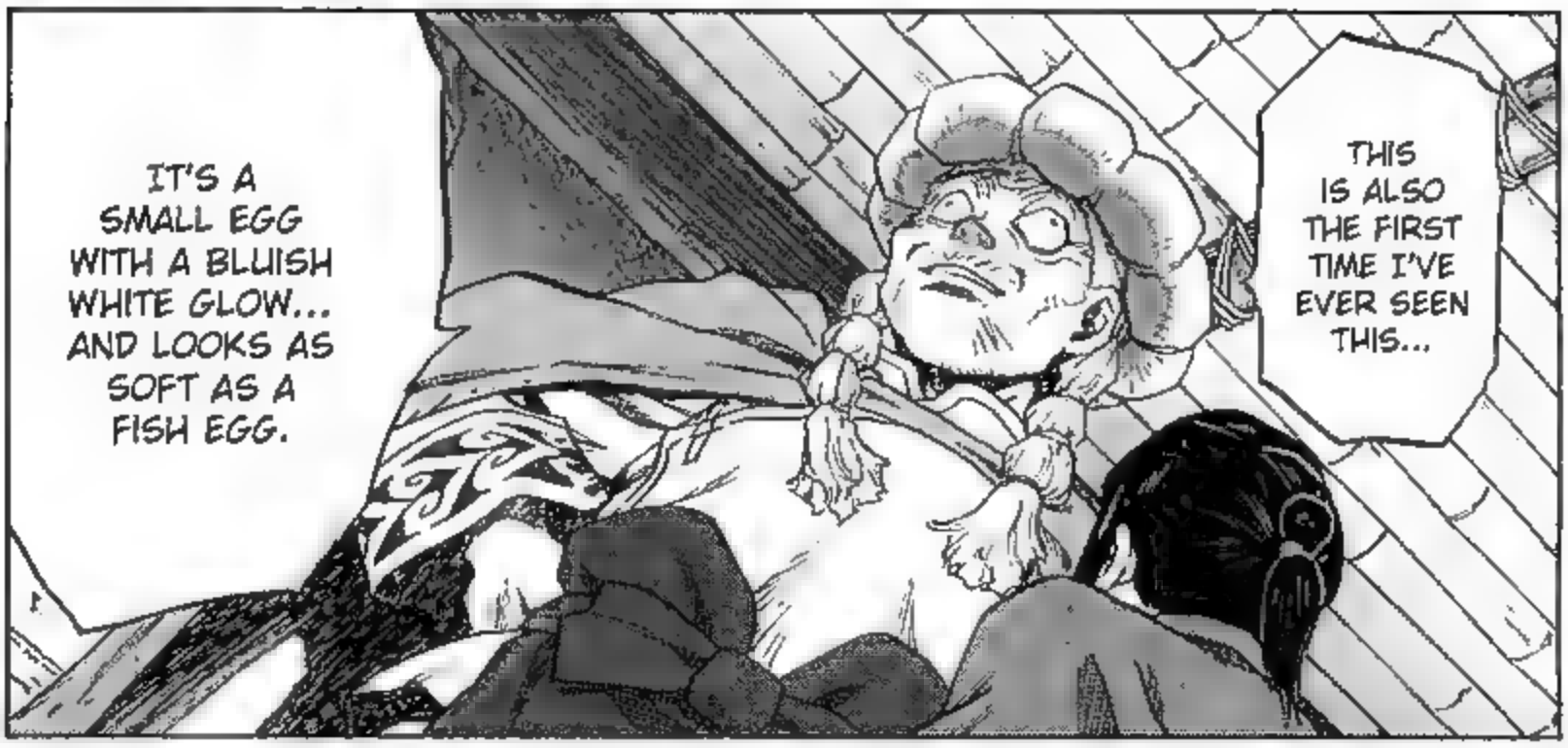
I SEE. SO THIS REALLY IS THE SECOND PRINCE!

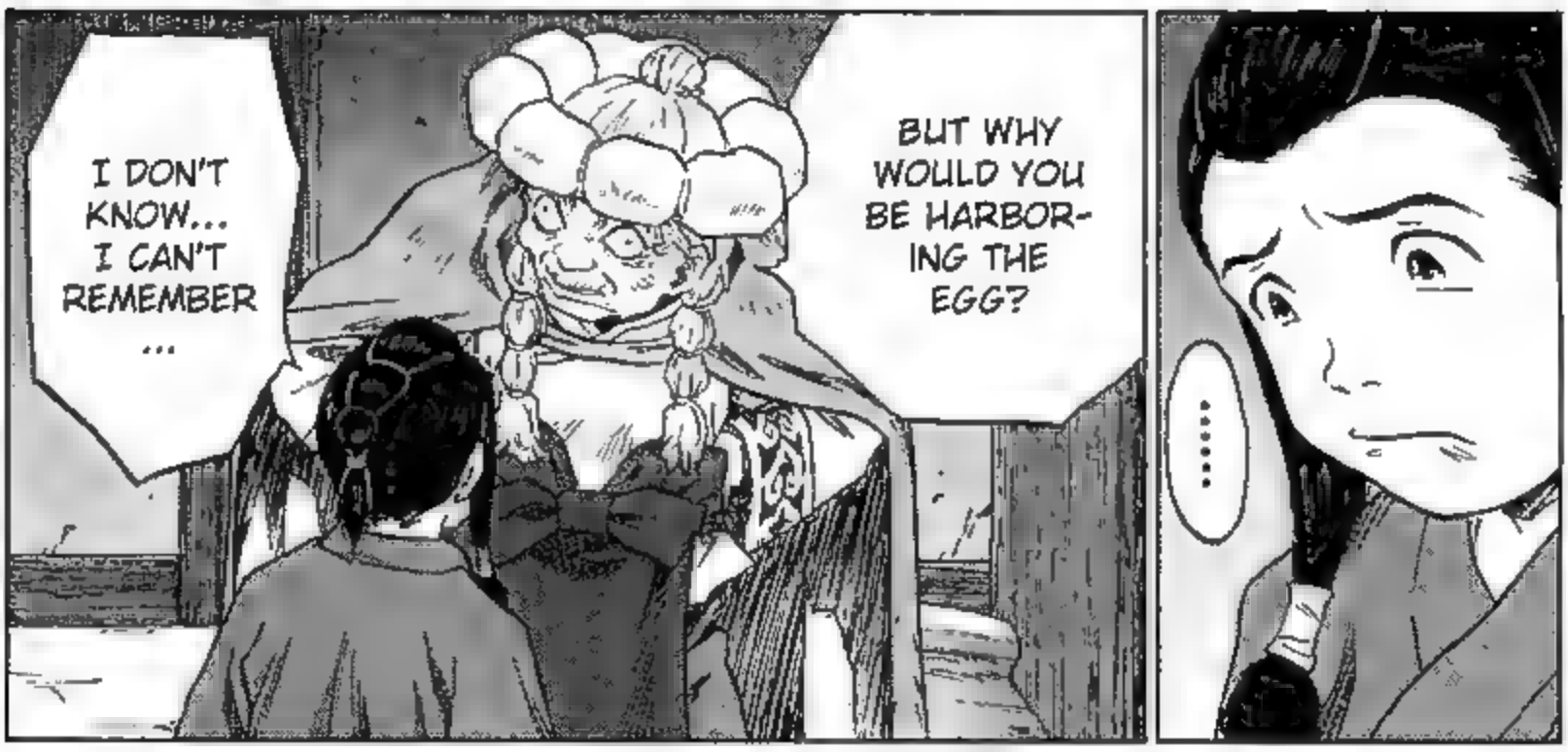
NO WONDER THOSE HOUNDS CHASING AFTER ME WERE SO DESPERATE!

YOUR BODY IS OF SAGU ...

IT'S OF THIS WORLD. THERE'S NO WAY THE EGG WOULD PHYSICALLY BE IN YOUR FLESH.

GYAHAHAHA

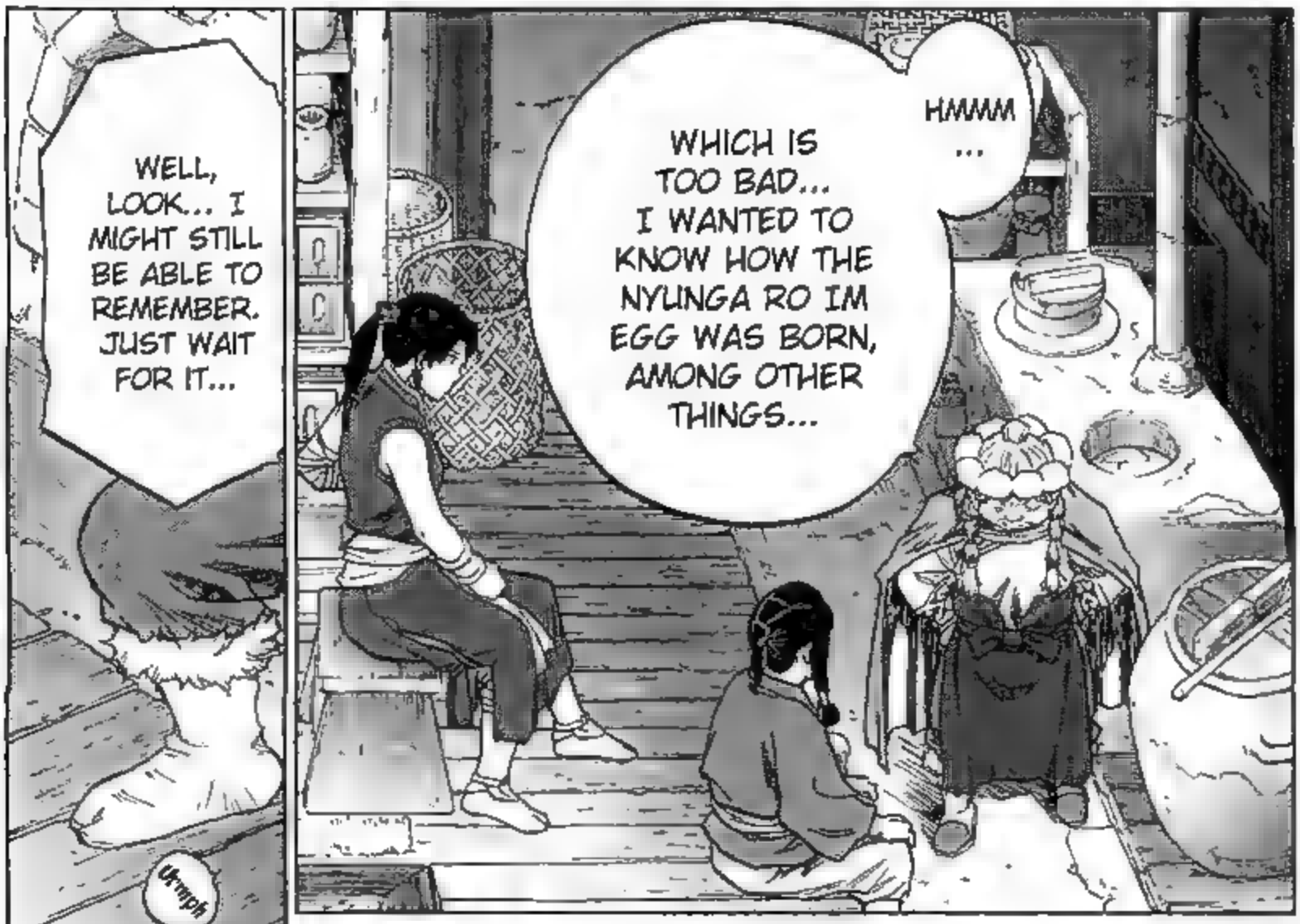

IT'S A SMALL EGG WITH A BLUISH WHITE GLOW... AND LOOKS AS SOFT AS A FISH EGG.
THIS IS ALSO THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN THIS...

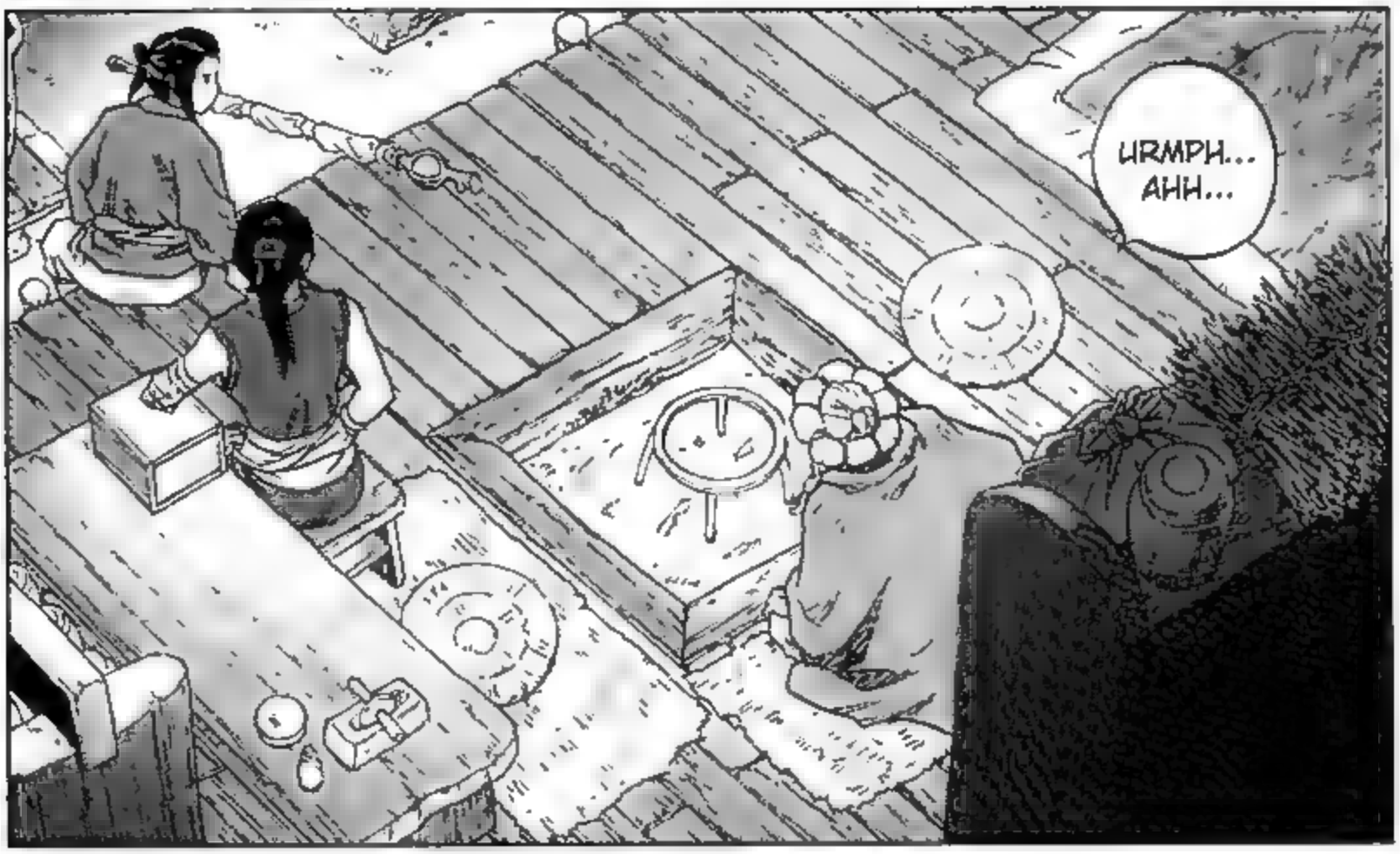

I DON'T KNOW... I CAN'T REMEMBER ...
BUT WHY WOULD YOU BE HARBOR-ING THE EGG?
.....

WELL, THAT'S BECAUSE ...
WHY DID THE WATER SPIRIT'S EGG...?
I THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO TELL US IF WE FOUND YOU!

TWITCH
I DON'T KNOW!

THERE ARE THINGS EVEN I DON'T KNOW.


WELL, LOOK... I MIGHT STILL BE ABLE TO REMEMBER. JUST WAIT FOR IT...
Uhmph
WHICH IS TOO BAD... I WANTED TO KNOW HOW THE NYUNGA RO IM EGG WAS BORN, AMONG OTHER THINGS...
HMMM ...


URMPH... AHH...

OI, BALSA.. WHERE IS THAT IDIOT APPRENTICE OF MINE? DID YOU EAT HIM?
.....

TANDA IS...
I'M NOT *THAT* HUNGRY...

MASTER! I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU!!

!

WHO'S EATING?

!

I GUESS THE SAYING IS TRUE... WHEN YOU START GOS-SIPING ABOUT SOMEONE, THEY SHOW UP.

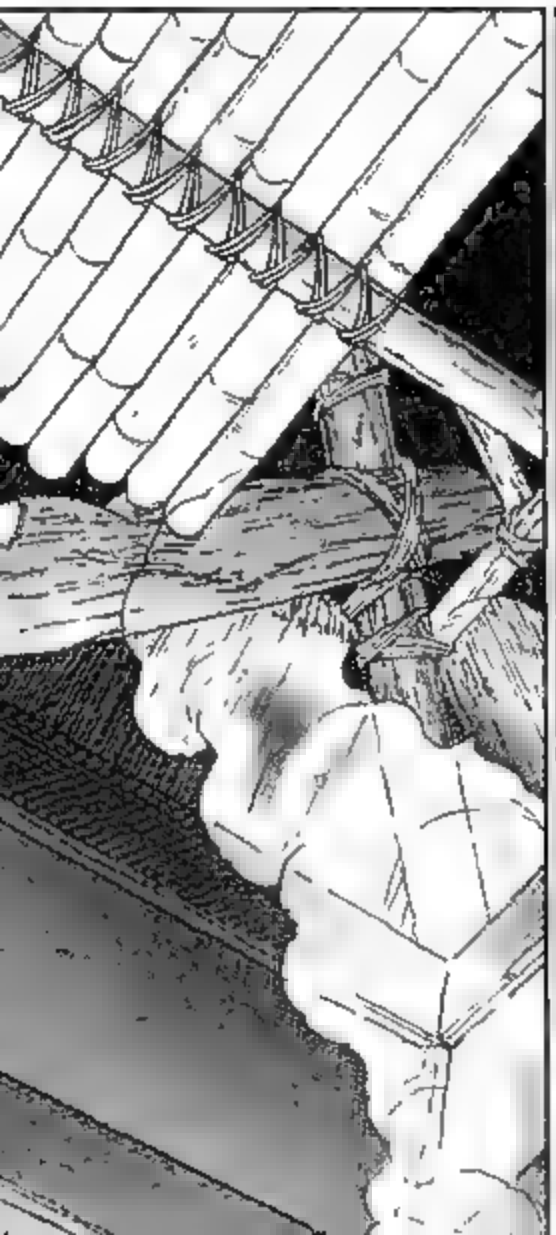
IT'S THAT KIND OF BABBLING THAT WILL GUARANTEE YOU'LL NEVER HAVE A WIFE!

YOU IDIOT!

I HEARD SOME TALK ABOUT HUNGER. WAS THAT YOU, MASTER?

I GOT SOME MUSHROOMS FROM THE MOUNTAIN. WE CAN TALK ABOUT IT OVER STEW.
I THINK I HAVE BETTER THINGS TO DO RIGHT NOW THAN WORRY ABOUT HAVING A WIFE.
HUUH ?

WHAT... AND TO THINK I GAVE UP THE WHITE DEER INN'S VENISON STEW FOR THIS... MUSHROOMS ARE NO GOOD...



COME HELP, CHAGUM.
AH... OKAY.
SO THIS IS ABOUT EATING.

AREN'T THEY?! CHAGUM PREPARED THEM JUST TODAY. HE'S QUITE SKILLFUL...

HMMM... THE SKEWERS ARE QUITE GOOD.

THAT'S WHERE HE ISN'T SKILLFUL.

ALTHOUGH HE'S NOT QUITE A MAN OF WORDS, IS HE...

YES, QUITE A LOT!

SO TANDA, DID YOU FIND OUT ANYTHING FROM YOUR TRIP TO MOUNT YASHIRO?

HMMM...

THE STORY GOES THAT THE NYUNGA RO IM IS A LIVING SPIRIT WHO LIVES IN THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER AND EXHALES CLOUDS...

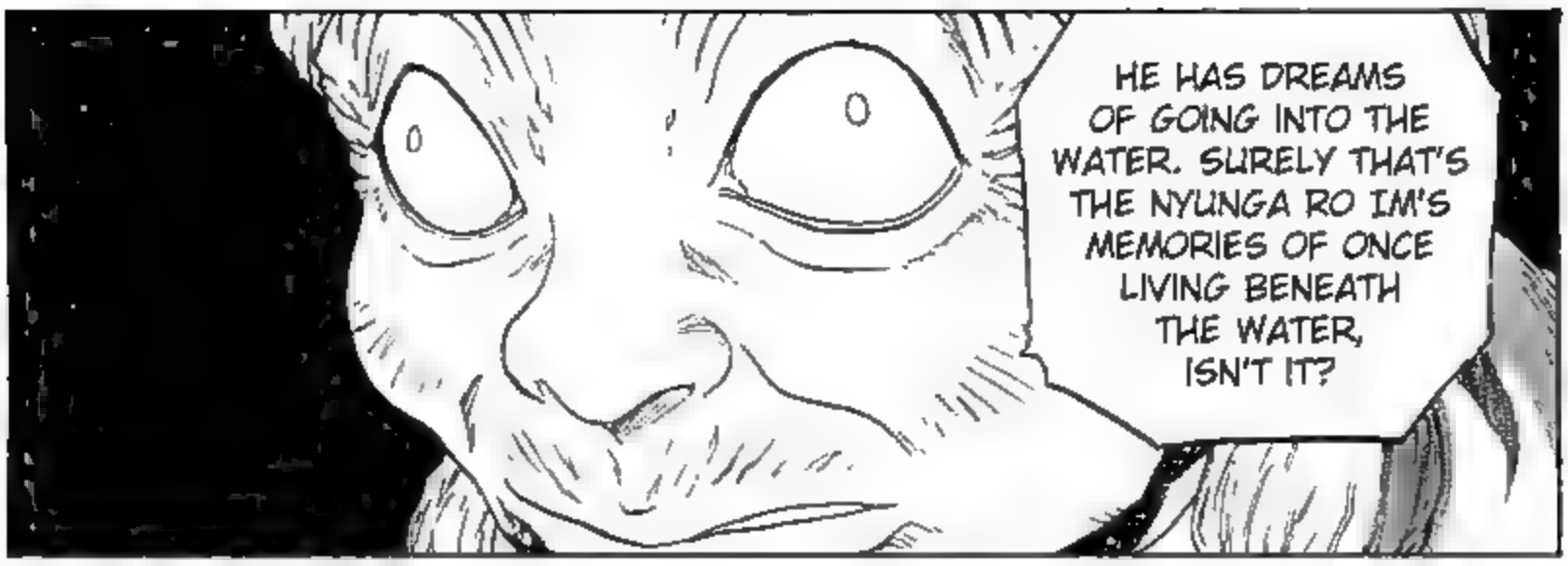
WHEN IT BECOMES AN ADULT, IT STOPS BEING ABLE TO MOVE. AFTER A HUNDRED YEARS, RIGHT BEFORE IT DIES, IT WILL LAY AN EGG INSIDE SOMEONE FROM SAGU. AND THEN THAT EGG WILL HAVE TO BE BROUGHT TO THE SEA.

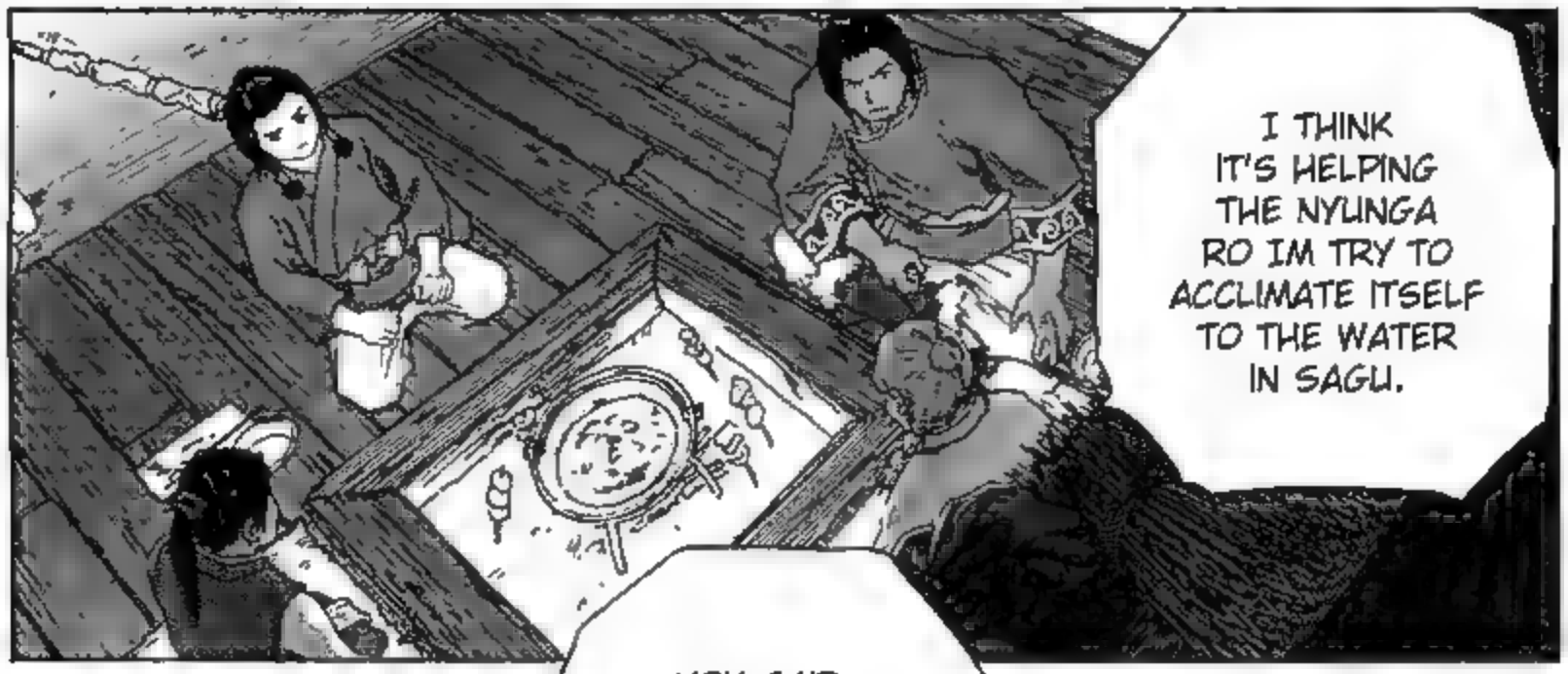
NO... THAT TIME HASN'T COME YET...

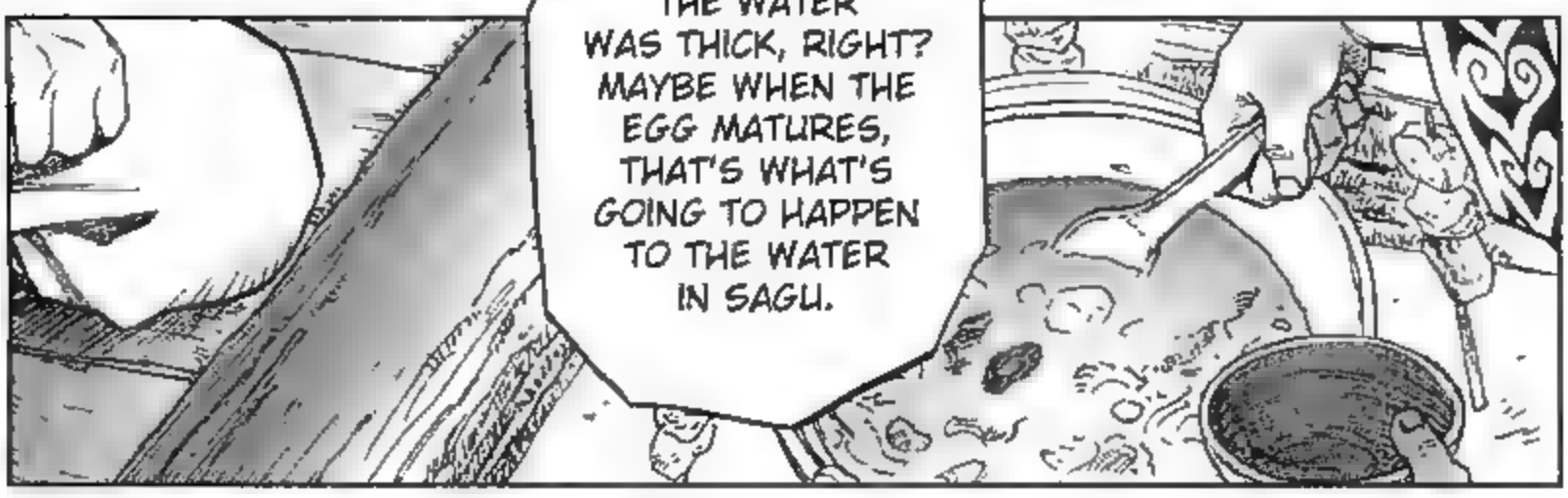
SO MAYBE WE SHOULD GO AND BRING THE EGG TO THE SEA RIGHT NOW...

!

CHAGUM WILL BE MOVING TOWARDS THE WATER...


HE HAS DREAMS OF GOING INTO THE WATER. SURELY THAT'S THE NYUNGA RO IM'S MEMORIES OF ONCE LIVING BENEATH THE WATER, ISN'T IT?


I THINK IT'S HELPING THE NYUNGA RO IM TRY TO ACCLIMATE ITSELF TO THE WATER IN SAGU.


YOU SAID THE WATER WAS THICK, RIGHT? MAYBE WHEN THE EGG MATURES, THAT'S WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO THE WATER IN SAGU.

SSS
THAT ASIDE, I THINK WHEN IT'S TIME, CHAGUM WILL BEGIN SEEING HIMSELF GOING TOWARDS THE SEA ON HIS OWN.

IS IT TRUE THAT I'LL BE SAVED IF WE MANAGE TO PROTECT THE EGG UNTIL IT HATCHES?

A LONG TIME AGO, A WATER CREATURE OF NAYUG TOLD ME THAT THE PERSON WHO HOSTED THE EGG DID NOT GET HURT.
HUFF
MAYBE.

WHEW

BUT IF WE DON'T PROTECT IT, IT WILL BE EATEN BY THE LA LUNGA, WON'T IT? JUST LIKE WHAT HAPPENED A HUNDRED YEARS AGO...

IT DIDN'T LAST FOR 100 YEARS.

WHILE A TERRIBLE DROUGHT REALLY DID HAPPEN,

BUT IT'S ODD...

MASTER! IS THE NYUNGA RO IM REALLY THE CREATURE THAT CREATES THE CLOUDS?

BUT, WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT, THE WORLD ISN'T ONLY MADE UP OF THE NAYORO PENINSULA.

THERE ARE THINGS EVEN I DON'T KNOW.

FOOSH

.....

THERE ARE CLOUDS EVERY-WHERE ...

JUST LIKE THERE ARE FISHES, BIRDS, AND ANIMALS THAT ARE BORN THE SAME WAY FROM DIFFERENT EGGS,

AND THERE MAY NOT ONLY BE ONE NYUNGA RO IM.

MAYBE CLOUDS COULD ALSO BE BORN FROM DIFFERENT SPIRITS?

WE HAVE TO PROTECT IT.

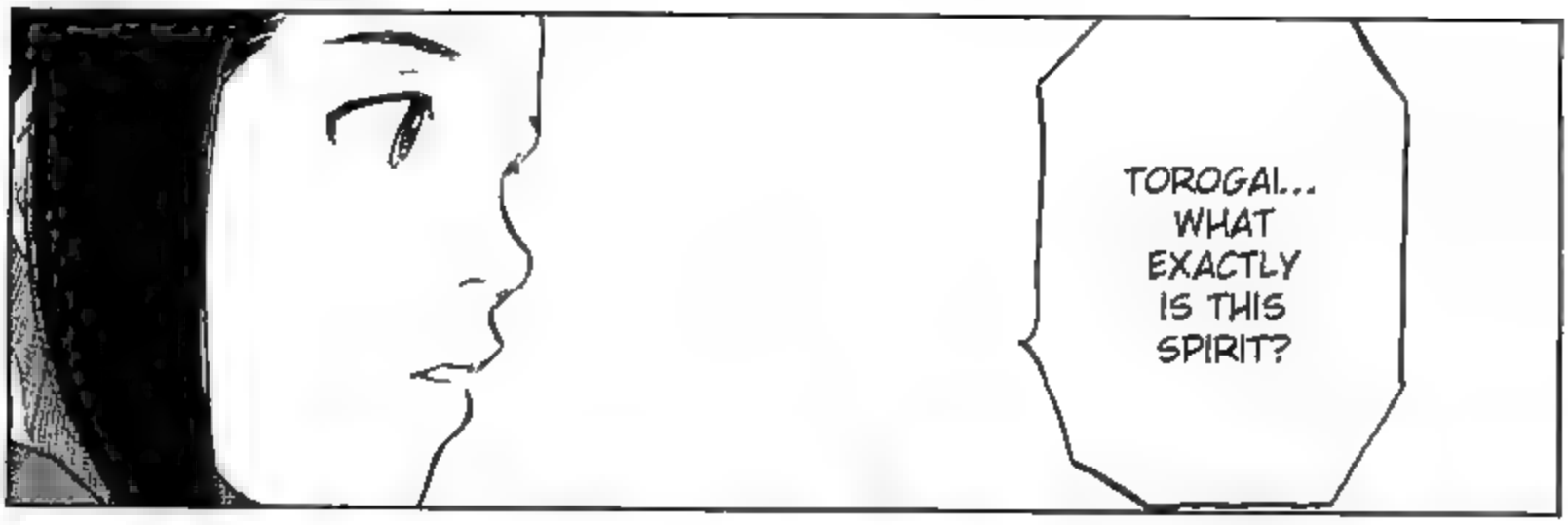
THE ONLY THING WE CAN BE SURE OF IS THAT HERE IN THE NAYORO PENINSULA, THERE WILL BE A DROUGHT IF THE EGG DOES NOT SAFELY HATCH.

OF COURSE!

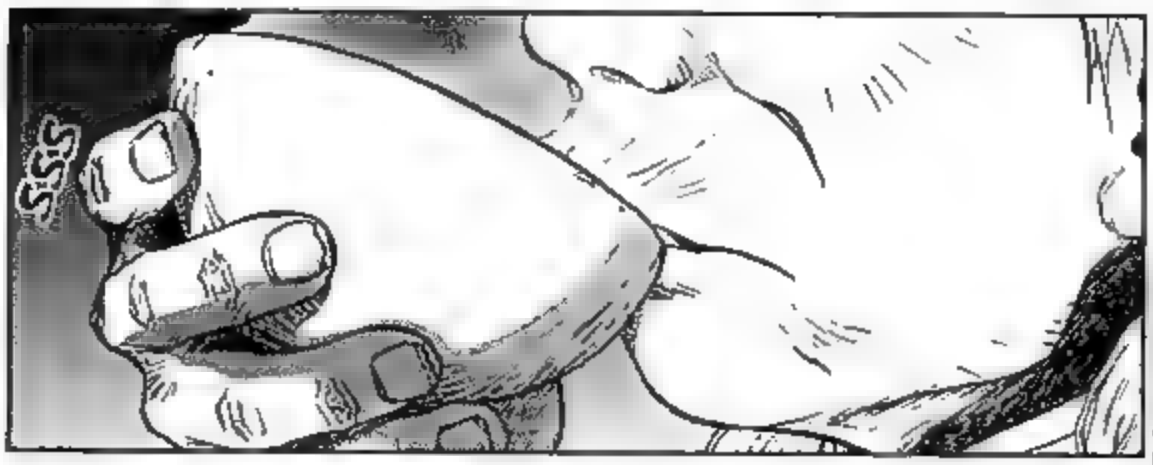
IT'S ALSO TO SAVE CHAGUM'S LIFE!

AND IT'S NOT JUST TO PREVENT THE DROUGHT ...

SSSSS


TOROGAI... WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS SPIRIT?

SO SINCE THIS ONE LAYS EGGS AND IS HATCHED FROM AN EGG, IS IT REALLY A SPIRIT?
THE EXPERTS AT THE STAR PALACE TOLD ME THAT A SPIRIT IS FORMED WHEN THE LIFE FORCE OF ALL CREATION MELDS TOGETHER.



YOU DO KNOW THAT PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES WHO SPEAK DIFFERENT LANGUAGES HAVE DIFFERENT WAYS OF THINKING, RIGHT?
LISTEN, BOY...

HMPH!
SO THAT'S HOW YOU YOGO PEOPLE SEE IT, HUH...

LIKE BALSA, FOR EXAMPLE. SHE'S FROM KANBAL, AND THE PEOPLE THERE BELIEVE THAT THE LIGHTNING IS A GOD, RIGHT BALSA?

FSS

YES. THE WORLD STARTED AS A DARK WHIRLPOOL, AND A LIGHT BURST OPEN FROM IT. THAT WAS YORAM, THE GOD OF LIGHT-NING.

.....

SEE, CHAGUM?

YOU, CHAGUM, ARE FROM YOGO. THE YOGO BELIEVE THAT THEIR GOD IS A GIANT THAT EMERGED FROM THE ACCUMULATION OF THE MOST POWERFUL SPIRITS WHEN THE WORLD FORMED.
chup

.....

THE EARTH GAVE BIRTH TO THE GODDESS, AND SHE COMBINED FORCES WITH THE GIANT TO CREATE THE FIRST HUMAN. THIS HUMAN IS YOUR FIRST ANCESTOR.
WHEN THIS GIANT STIRRED THE DARKNESS, THE LIGHT HEAVENS AND THE HEAVY EARTH SEPARATED.

.....

DON'T WORRY... I KNOW EACH COUNTRY TREATS THEIR OWN STORY AS THEIR LEGEND. I'M NOT MOCKING THEM.

PEOPLE FROM ALL COUNTRIES AND WALKS OF LIFE HAVE, FOR YEARS AND YEARS,
WANTED TO KNOW WHAT OUR WORLD IS, AND HOW IT CAME TO BE.

THE YOGO BELIEVE IN A GIANT GOD. THE YAKU BELIEVE THAT THE WORLD BEGAN FROM A WHIRLING SNAKE.

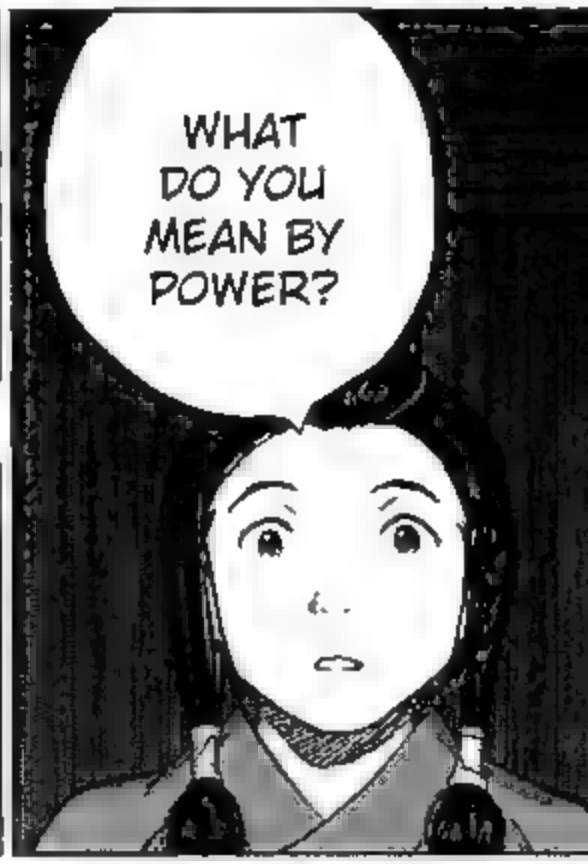
I DO NOT KNOW WHICH ONE IS CORRECT.

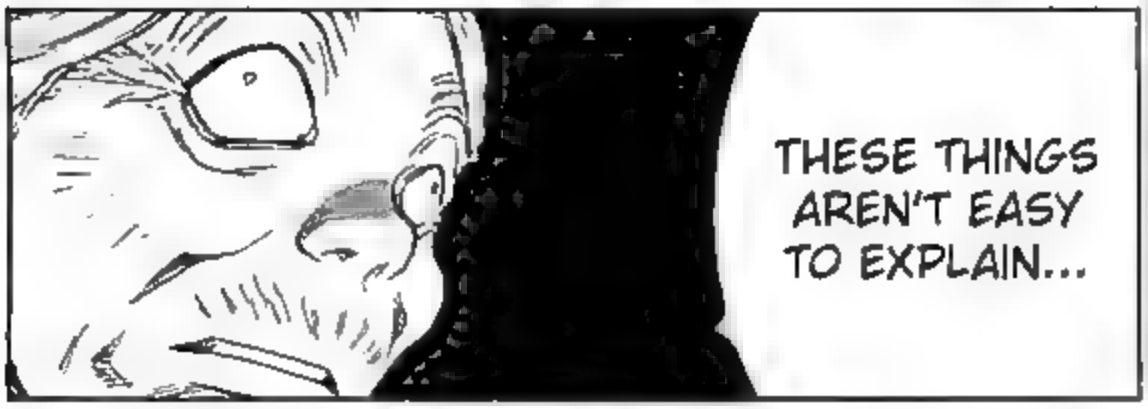
THE YOGO AND YAKU ALSO HAVE DIFFERENT BELIEFS ON WHAT SPIRITS ARE.

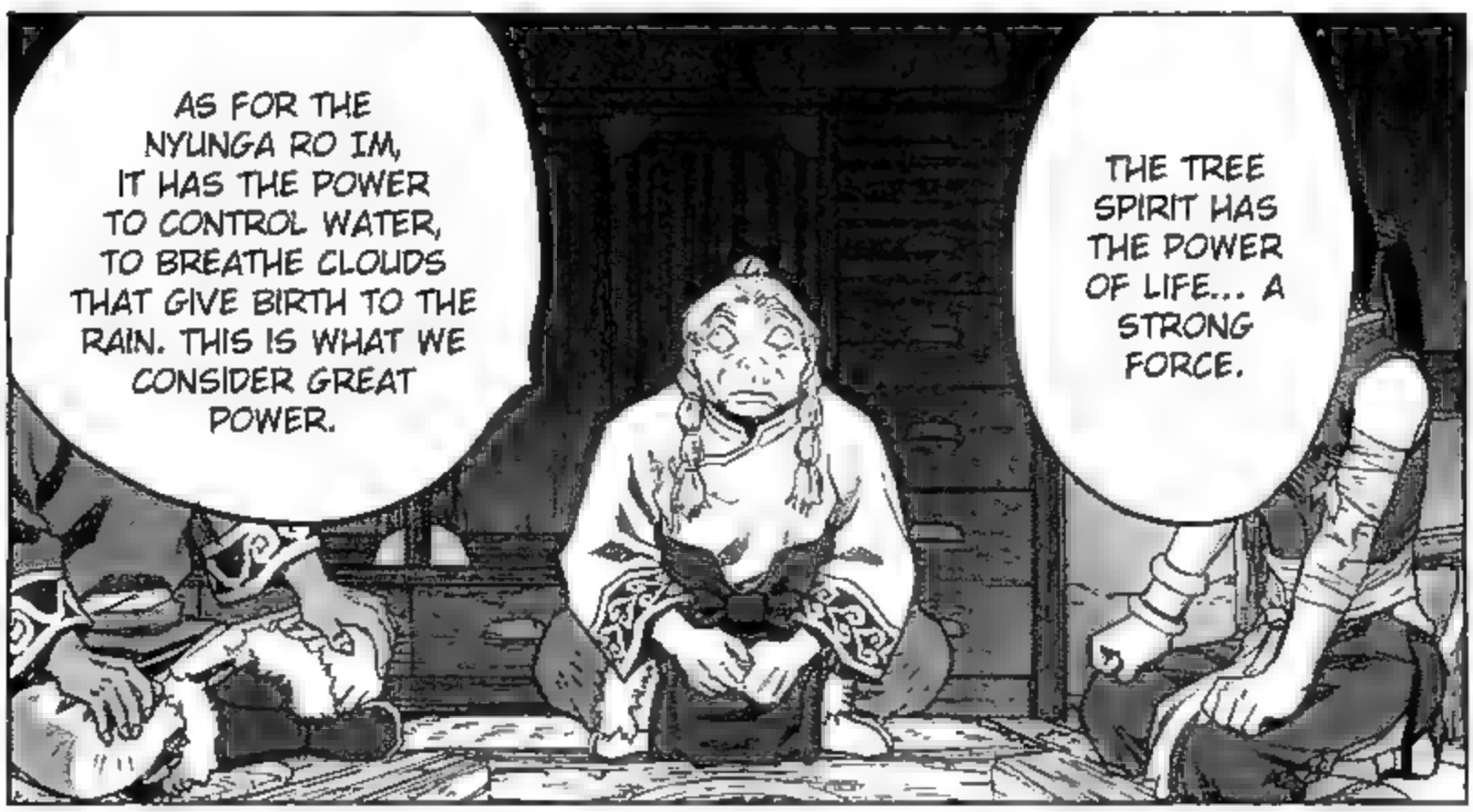
FOR US YAKU, THE SPIRITS ARE POWERFUL BEINGS RELATED TO WATER, EARTH, FIRE, AIR, AND WOOD.

A TREE THAT HAS EXISTED FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS ACCUMULATES A LOT OF POWER, AND IS THOUGHT OF AS A SPIRIT BY US YAKU.
EVEN IF IT STARTED OUT AS A SMALL SEEDLING THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO, IT IS CONSIDERED A SPIRIT TO US.

.....


WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY POWER?


THESE THINGS AREN'T EASY TO EXPLAIN...


AS FOR THE NYUNGA RO IM, IT HAS THE POWER TO CONTROL WATER, TO BREATHE CLOUDS THAT GIVE BIRTH TO THE RAIN. THIS IS WHAT WE CONSIDER GREAT POWER.
THE TREE SPIRIT HAS THE POWER OF LIFE... A STRONG FORCE.

CHAGUM, YOU REMIND ME OF TANDA 20 YEARS AGO.

?

.....

IS THIS THE KIND OF THING YOU LIKE?

I'M NOT GOOD WITH THESE COMPLICATED STORIES.

IT'S NOT THAT I LIKE IT...

IT'S THAT... IF I DON'T UNDERSTAND SOMETHING, I WON'T BE ABLE TO SETTLE DOWN UNTIL I CAN SEE IT CLEARLY.

CHAGUM SOUNDS MORE LIKE A SCHOLAR THAN A PRINCE. AND IF OUR THOUGHTLESS BALSA HERE WAS A PRINCE, I'D FEEL SORRY FOR THE FATE OF THE COUNTRY.

LIKE NOT THINKING BEFORE YOU SPEAK?
IT'S TERRI-BLE BEING THOUGHTLESS, ISN'T IT?

.....

HMPH!

WHATEVER THE NYUNGA RO IM REALLY IS, WHAT WE KNOW IS THAT IT'S BEING CHASED AFTER BY THE LA LUNGA AND BY THE EMPEROR'S MEN.

LET'S GET BACK TO WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.

HMMM...

AND WE HAVE TO PROTECT CHAGUM FROM BOTH.

IT WOULD BE EASIER IF THOSE STAR DIVINERS READ MY LETTER AND DID WHAT THEY HAVE TO DO...

SCRATCH SCRATCH

AH, BUT IT'S GOOD TO KNOW THAT THAT LITTLE GIRL IN MOUNT YASHIRO REMEMBERED THE NYUNGA RO IM.

I WONDER WHY, THOUGH.

THAT MEANS WE AT LEAST HAVE A THIN THREAD CONNECTING US TO THE PAST.

HOW COULD PEOPLE FORGET ABOUT IT SO EASILY?

THE NYUNGA RO IM DIRECTLY AFFECTS THE HARVEST OF THE WHOLE COUNTRY. IT'S VERY IMPORTANT.

FORGIVE ME FOR SAYING THIS IN FRONT OF THE PRINCE, BUT IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE OF POLITICS.

.....

THE STAR DIVINERS WILL NOT LET THEIR CITIZENS BELIEVE IN YAKU LEGENDS BECAUSE THEY WANT COMPLETE CONTROL OF EVERYTHING UNDER THE SKY.
THE NYUNGA RO IM HAS BEEN CONNECTED TO THE LEGEND OF THE FOUNDING OF THEIR COUNTRY.

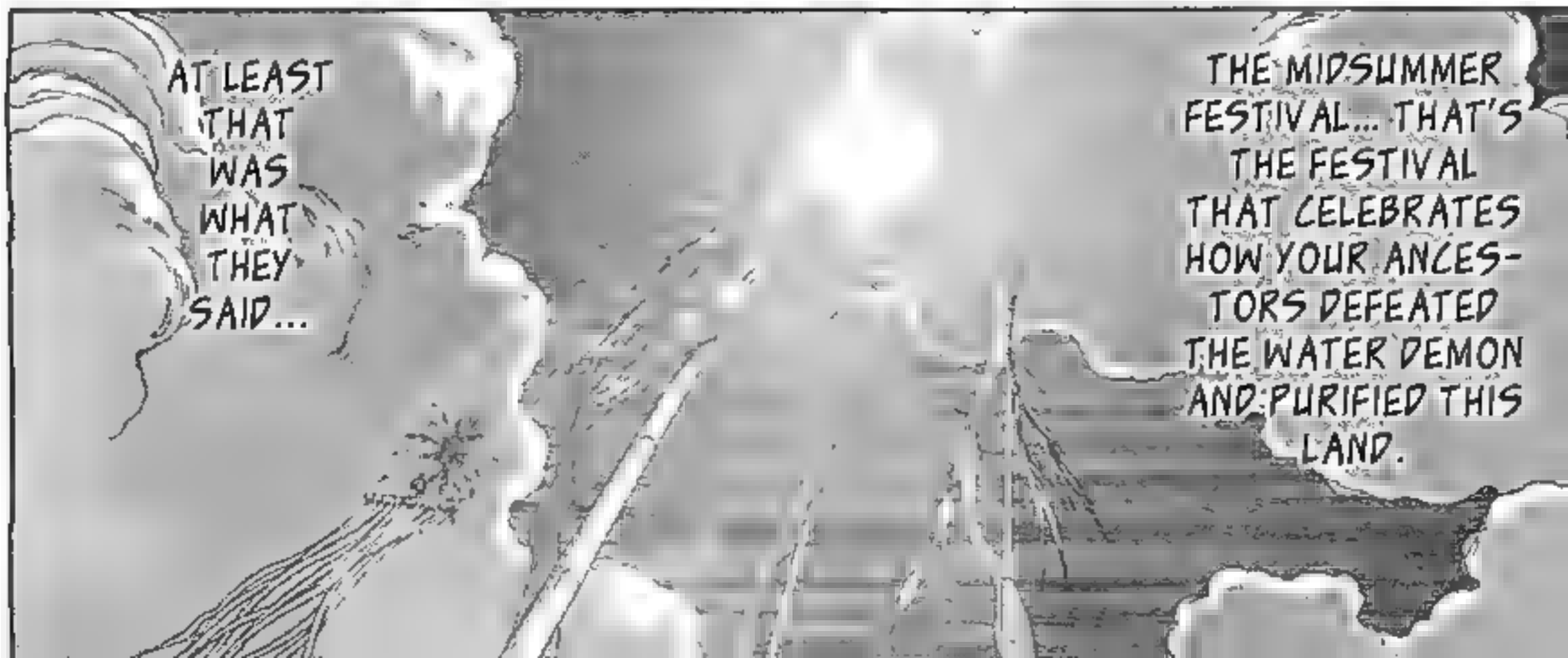
ALTHOUGH SHE MISSED THE MOST IMPORTANT PART: HOW TO DEFEAT THE LA LUNGA.
BUT THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE WHO KNOW THE STORY, LIKE THAT GIRL FROM MOUNT YASHIRO.
THE STORY MIGHT NOT BE COMPLETE, BUT A LOT OF IMPORTANT INFORMATION WAS STILL PASSED ON LIKE A THIN THREAD

SLIPPING THROUGH THE EYES OF THE GENERALS.

DO THE SAGES AT THE STAR PALACE REALLY DECEIVE OUR CITIZENS LIKE THAT? HOW CAN THEY DO THAT?
IS IT TRUE ...?

THROUGH THE MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL, FOR ONE.

!


AT LEAST THAT WAS WHAT THEY SAID...
THE MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL... THAT'S THE FESTIVAL THAT CELEBRATES HOW YOUR ANCES-TORS DEFEATED THE WATER DEMON AND PURIFIED THIS LAND.

I BELIEVE IT WAS ALSO THE FESTIVAL WHERE THEY SHARE KNOWLEDGE ON HOW THE NYUNGARO IM CAN SAFELY HATCH.

FOR THE YAKU, IT IS A FESTIVAL TO PRAY FOR A GOOD HARVEST.

.....

WHIFF

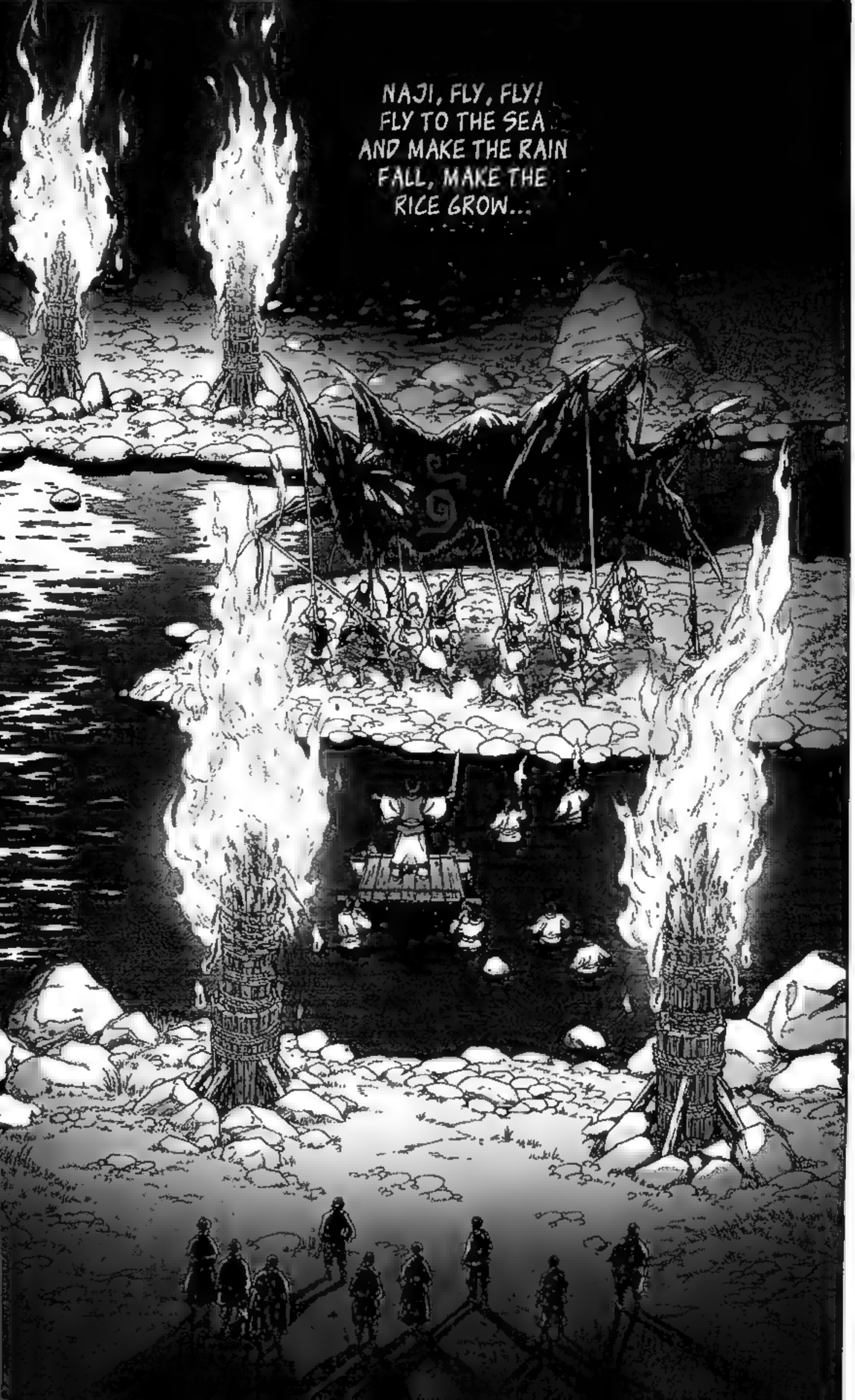
BUT NOW, THE FESTIVAL HAS TURNED INTO AN EVENT TO GIVE PRAISE TO EMPEROR TORGAL'S EXPLOITS.

AFTER ALL, THE EGG ALWAYS HATCHES IN THE MIDSUMMER.

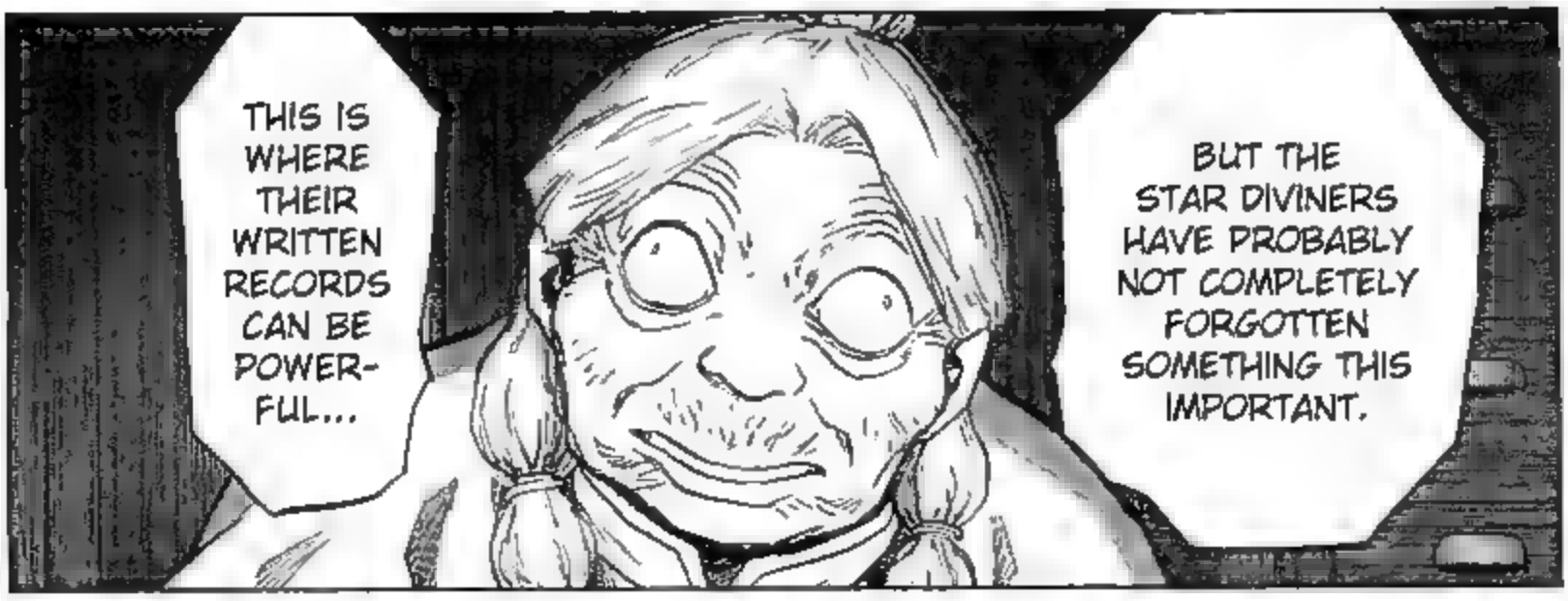
IT HAS COME TO THE POINT WHERE EVEN SHAMANS LIKE ME DO NOT EVEN HAVE A WAY OF KNOWING WHAT THE ORIGINAL FESTIVAL WAS LIKE.

AND NOW...

.....


NAJI, FLY, FLY!
FLY TO THE SEA
AND MAKE THE RAIN
FALL, MAKE THE
RICE GROW...

.....


THIS IS WHERE THEIR WRITTEN RECORDS CAN BE POWER-FUL...
BUT THE STAR DIVINERS HAVE PROBABLY NOT COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN SOMETHING THIS IMPORTANT.

THEN IT'S GOING TO BE WRITTEN IN THE RECORDS OF THE STAR DIVINERS.
IF THE KNOWLEDGE OF HOW TO DEFEAT THE LA LUNGA HAS BEEN PASSED ON...

...

BUT NOW IT'S GONE...
I THINK... SOMETHING IMPORTANT JUST FLASHED IN MY MIND...

SO I DON'T KNOW, MAYBE THEY'VE LET THEIR IMPORTANT RECORDS GET EATEN BY INSECTS.

BUT SINCE THEN, THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY OF STAR DIVINERS HAS SHIFTED TO POLITICS,

BUT UNLESS THEY'RE ABSOLUTE IDIOTS, THEY WOULD NOTICE THAT SOMETHING BIG IS HAPPENING.

SCRATCH SCRATCH

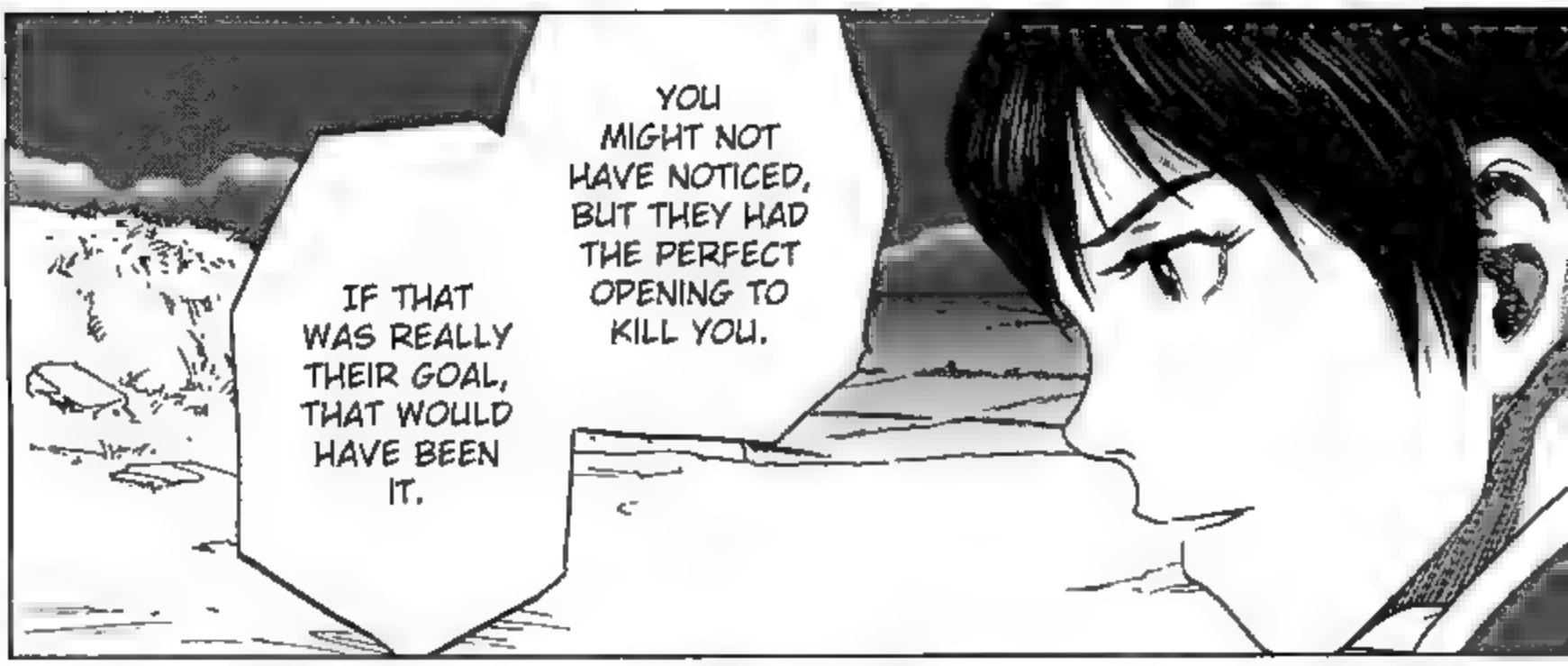
.....

THEY WON'T KILL THE PRINCE JUST LIKE THAT...

HUH?

YES. EVEN WHEN THEY WERE CHASING US, IT DIDN'T LOOK LIKE THEY WERE SET TO KILL CHAGUM.

THAT WAS WHY I WAS ABLE TO RESCUE YOU.


IF THAT WAS REALLY THEIR GOAL, THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN IT.
YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE NOTICED, BUT THEY HAD THE PERFECT OPENING TO KILL YOU.

SO I RAN AWAY, GOT THEM TO SPLIT UP, AND CAME BACK FOR YOU WHEN THERE WAS ONLY ONE PERSON LEFT WITH YOU.
BUT THEY CHANGED POSITIONS SO YOU WOULDN'T GET HURT, AND THEY ATTACKED ME INSTEAD.

FATHER... THE EMPEROR... ISN'T PLANNING TO KILL ME?!

THEN DOES THAT MEAN...

.....

NYA...

.....

SO DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN ...

KILLING YOU WOULD BE THE VERY LAST RESORT. BUT YOU CAN'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN.

THE EMPEROR ISN'T JUST ONE PERSON. HE HAS TO PUT THE SAFETY OF THE COUNTRY BEFORE HIS OWN PERSONAL FEELINGS.

O... OF COURSE HE WOULDN'T WANT YOU KILLED IF HE CAN HELP IT...

.....

.....

MAYBE WE SHOULD HEAD FOR THE HUNTING CAVE DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS, BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

WE STILL HAVE TO PREPARE FOR THE WORST.

ALL THE MORE REASON WE SHOULD HURRY.

SNOW HAS STARTED TO FALL IN THE MOUNTAINS...

IN THE MEANTIME, BALSA, YOU CAN CHECK FOR ANIMALS CAUGHT IN THE TRAPS I SET UP AND SMOKE THEM.

FIRST I HAVE TO BUY SOME SUPPLIES IN TOWN TOMORROW MORNING.

!

IT'S STRANGE...

I KNOW I PROBABLY SHOULDN'T BE, GIVEN THE CIRCUM-STANCES, BUT I'M PRETTY EXCITED ABOUT THIS...

IT'S LIKE FATE IS PULLING EVERYONE TOGETHER...

EVEN THOUGH ALL I EVER DID THERE EVERY DAY WAS TRAIN, AND I DON'T HAVE ANY FOND MEMORIES OF THAT PLACE IN PARTICULAR,

JUST THE FACT THAT WE ALL LIVED THERE TOGETHER MADE ME HAPPY.

BALSA
...
IT'S LIKE I'M SPENDING TIME WITH FAMILY AGAIN AFTER A LONG TIME...

WHAT A STUPID THING TO SAY...
HMPH!

THEN YOU CAN BE AN ACTUAL FAMILY.
MASTER
...
WELL, WHY DON'T YOU BOTH JUST DROP YOUR BORING PREOCCUPATIONS AND STAY TOGETHER?!

HEHEHE, THEN YOU'LL END UP BEING LIKE ME!!

HAHA HAHA!

SH... SHH!

.....

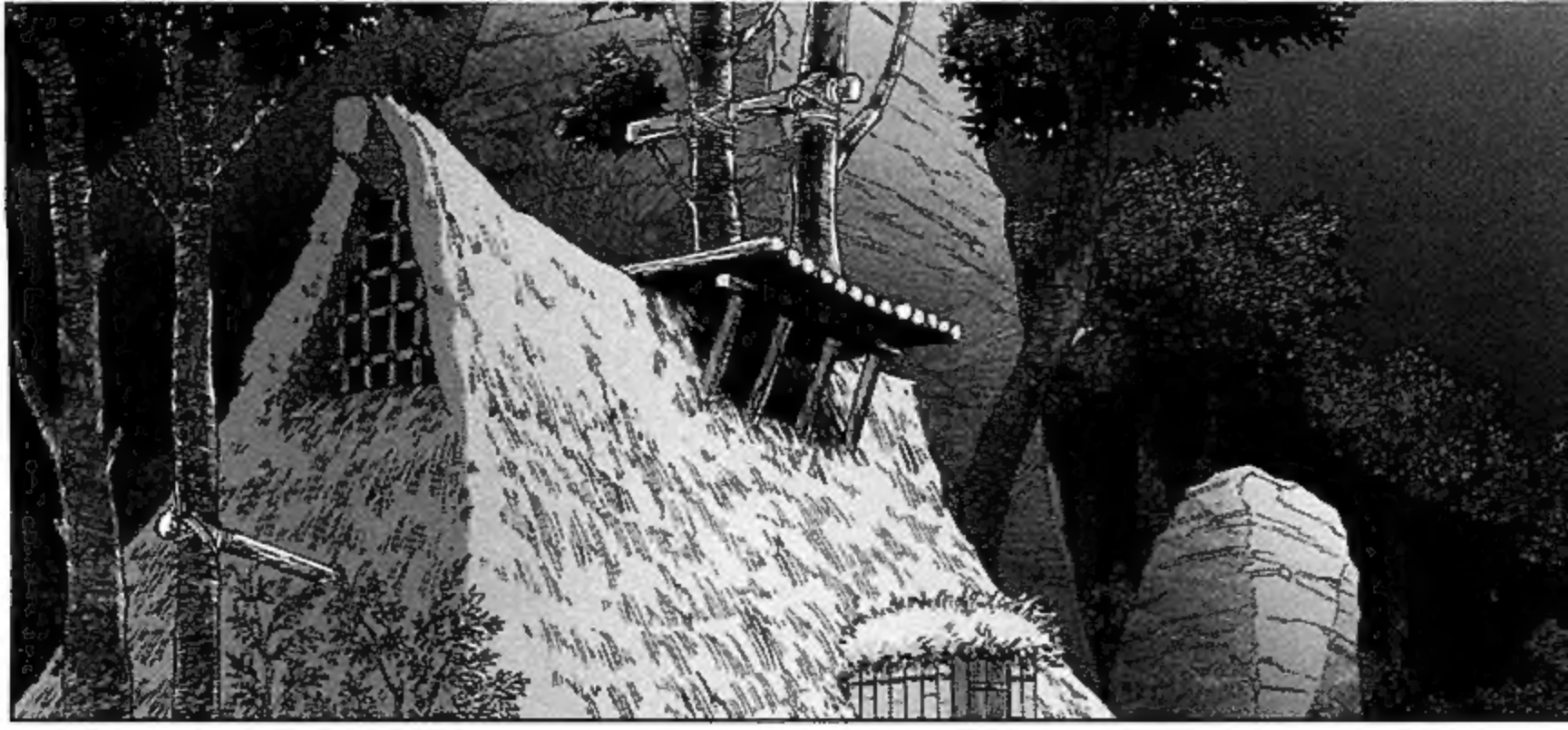
HM?

!

I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...
WHAT ARE YOU BOYS GETTING SECRETIVE ABOUT?

RIGHT ...
RIGHT, CHAGUM?
IT'S NOTH-ING...

YEAH, WE SHOULD.
OKAY THEN! TOMORROW'S GOING TO BE A BUSY DAY, WE SHOULD BE GOING TO SLEEP SOON.



SEE YOU LATER, THEN!

SEIREI NO MORIBITO 2 END